



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

No. 128

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 21, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NIKEMA WILLIAMS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. I rise as a person who is proud to live in a country where we celebrate the ideal of liberty and justice for all; government of the people, by the people, for the people.

I rise today with grateful thoughts on my mind and in my heart. I rise with gratitude. I am thankful to those persons, the many, who have signed on to H. Res. 517.

H. Res. 517, Madam Speaker, is a resolution that would allow us to remember slavery, Slavery Remembrance Day.

Slavery Remembrance Day would be a day that we would set aside, not for celebration, but for commemoration, for memorialization, to remember the atrocities that were imposed upon people, human beings, how they were made chattel. Slavery Remembrance Day.

And for those who may not be aware, we have a 9/11 Remembrance Day. We have a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We have a Holocaust Remembrance Day. But we don't have a Slavery Remembrance Day.

Hence, on August 20 of this year, we will commemorate the first Slavery Remembrance Day, because it was on that day in 1619 that the White Lion landed in this country with some 20 persons who were held in captivity as slaves. Slavery Remembrance Day.

So I am rising today to thank the many persons who have already signed on to the resolution. And I want you to know that we will be sending you something very special, something comparable to this. It will have the resolution cited on one side of the page. Each of your names will be highlighted on the other side of the page. And each of you will have a special place for your name that will be highlighted.

This is historic, and we have to treat it as such. This is something that those who will look back on this time through the vista of time, they will look, and they will conclude that we did not forget, that we made it a point to remember that those who, unfortunately, don't learn the lessons of history sometimes repeat history.

We never want to repeat slavery. Hence, we will have a Slavery Remembrance Day resolution.

THE AMERICAN DREAM IS ALIVE AND WELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, 2 miles down the road from this very Chamber, in 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and proclaimed his vision for the future:

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a Nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Nearly 60 years later, radical far-left Democrats are doing everything possible to eliminate this dream through the implementation of critical race theory.

Instead of equality, critical race theory frames race, not character, as the focal point of the human construct, implying that one's racial identity defines who they are and who they will ever be.

To these CRT believers, your fate has already been decided by your skin color.

To the average American living outside the swamp bubble, this idea is ludicrous.

Everyday Americans have seen individuals of all races and backgrounds succeed. They know hard work and character are the biggest determinants of success, and the American Dream is alive and well for everyone.

But critical race theory wants to poison our classrooms by pushing an agenda which revolves around race, not character. They want to teach young minds that racism persists even if no individual or institution acts in a racist way or holds any racist beliefs.

This toxic teaching squashes hope, stifles growth, and fuels anger and despair.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3759

What began as a theory for civil rights lawyers to debate has transformed into harmful messages that ultimately seek to further divide our Nation.

CRT and The 1619 Project have no place in our schools, our workplaces, or our military.

Our Nation's founding principles of equality and freedom are worth fighting for and protecting. While our Nation isn't perfect, we always strive for that more perfect Union. We have made progress in the last 100 years and are still the greatest Nation in the world. This progress would be lost should we allow the divisive, racist rhetoric of critical race theory into our classrooms.

As a mother and a former teacher, I believe our education system is at its best when we inspire our young people to be all they can be and share with them the principles showcased in America's traditional motto, "e pluribus unum," which means, out of many, one. That is the unique greatness of our country, the idea of being a melting pot of people from different countries, races, and backgrounds, but we become one as Americans.

Our schools should never stifle the growth of our children, belittle them based on the color of their skin, or teach them that they themselves or their families are racist regardless of their individual beliefs.

The American Dream is alive and well and should be fanned into flames, not crushed by critical race theory's restrictive and damaging rhetoric. That is the last thing our children need.

Since critical race theory has entered the national discussion, Missourians and parents across the country have expressed strong disdain for teaching our students that this country is inherently racist and that minority groups are unable to succeed within our country's current systems and institutions.

Today, I stand by those parents. I cannot condone an education system that teaches students to be ashamed of our country and to judge each other based on the color of our skin. And I believe neither would Martin Luther King, Jr. Our kids deserve better.

PAYMENT PAUSE FOR STUDENT LOANS SHOULD BE EXTENDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, last January, in one of his first executive orders, President Biden extended the student loan pause on monthly payments through the end of September.

This order allowed all direct student loans issued by the Federal Government through the U.S. Department of Education, again, to have a grace period during the recession that we are still experiencing. Even with a good job

growth last month, 800,000 jobs added to the economy, a 5.6 percent unemployment rate, and having people starting to again recover, the need for that pause was blindingly obvious.

A couple weeks ago, myself and Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY wrote to President Biden and the Secretary of Education calling on the President to extend that pause again. We are about 60 days away from all these student loans snapping back with very high interest rates, and again, at a time when the economy is still recovering.

Madam Speaker, this is exactly what the Small Business Administration did for disaster loans issued during COVID when they extended the grace period allowed of 1 year, when those loans were issued during COVID, to have that grace period extended into 2022. That was a smart, wise move recognizing that this is the wrong time to add debt burden on individuals and businesses as the U.S. economy starts to recover.

Again, we understand that at some point we are going to have to have a return to student loan debt payments, but, again, there are additional reasons why this pause makes sense.

Two of the largest debt servicers, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, which services a large number of student loan debts, announced a couple of weeks ago they are withdrawing from the program, which means that borrowers are going to be shifted to new servicers, as well as the New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corporation.

So again, the dislocation and the change that is happening with student loan servicers are additional reasons why the President and Secretary Cardona should agree to our request.

Moving forward, it is time for Congress to act to fix some of the problems within the student loan space.

Congressman DUSTY JOHNSON and I, on a bipartisan basis, back in January, introduced the Recognizing Military Service in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Act. A companion bill in the Senate was introduced by Senator RUBIO and Senator HASSAN.

Again, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program was created back in 2007 basically to allow teachers, nurses, people serving in the military, cops—who will, again, make 10 years of payments on their student loans while holding down public service jobs—to be eligible for discharge of their student loan debt.

The last administration butchered this program. People who, again, for 10 years abided by the rules were refused and denied student loan discharge, including people serving in the military.

Our bill will untangle that bottleneck, will recognize that people who are on Active Duty overseas, away from their families, who again, were allowed a grace period in terms of monthly payments, those months will be credited towards public service loan forgiveness. It has been endorsed by

every veteran service organization from VFW to the Iraq and Afghan War Veterans, and again, is a smart bipartisan bill which will help a population of people who perform the highest form of public service; namely, wearing the uniform of this country.

We should also, as Congress, change the law to allow people to refinance down the interest rate on their student loan debt. When these loans snap back, we are looking at 6 percent, 7 percent, 8 percent interest on legacy student loan debt.

The rest of the economy with a zero percent benchmark at the Federal Reserve is refinancing debt on homes, on consumer loans, on auto debt, but student loan borrowers are trapped unless Congress acts.

H.R. 3024 allows the Department of Education to refinance down the interest rates on student loan debt so that people, again, in a very low-interest rate environment—and the chairman of the Federal Reserve announced the other day he is going to keep the benchmark at zero through 2021. Student loan borrowers should get the benefit of those low interest rates just like every other middle class family that refines their home or their consumer debt.

So, extend the pause. Let's fix the problems in the meantime. Congress can act.

The millennials, the young people of this country deserve our help, both to act with the tools that we have, and also, calling on the administration to provide an additional grace period just like we did for small businesses.

HONORING DOUG WRIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a law enforcement officer from Summerville, South Carolina, who spent his career ensuring the safety of South Carolina residents and our neighborhoods.

Doug Wright began his career in 1997 by joining the Summerville Police Department. He has since dedicated over 20 years of his career to protecting our community, and I can think of no better thing to do today than to recognize the good work that our law enforcement does every single day in our communities and keeping us safe.

Through his career, Doug has worked diligently as a patrol team watch commander, uniform patrol division commander, and supervisor of the K-9 unit. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention Doug's 6 years as a Marine reservist.

In April, Chief Wright was promoted to chief of police for Summerville after serving as deputy. The vote by town council members was unanimous. This is a glowing endorsement of the work that Doug has done in his career for Summerville over the last 20 years.

Most recently, last week I was honored to award Chief Wright with a commendation from Congress for his work, and I was also able to watch and witness some of the less-than-lethal work that the Summerville Police Department is doing with the BolaWrap during that time.

Chief Wright exemplifies service in the Lowcountry in South Carolina's First Congressional District.

A NOTABLE RESCUE

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and highlight a notable rescue that took place off the coast of South Carolina's First Congressional District.

Many of us in the Lowcountry took for granted tropical storm Elsa when it hit our shores.

On July 7, as Elsa was beginning to strengthen at the beginning of this season's hurricane season, a family of six was visiting the Lowcountry from West Virginia. They were caught in 6-foot waves north of St. Helena.

That afternoon, the family had sailed their 21-foot Carolina skiff to tiny Otter Island from Edisto Beach.

As the weather worsened and the wind picked up, the boat drifted off the island into stormy waters.

Unfortunately, there was no SOS system available to the family, and the father actually decided to jump in the water and swim out for help after spotting a shrimp boat. The emergency was radioed in, and Skipper Clay Emminger of Beaufort Water Search and Rescue answered the call of duty.

Ultimately, the Coast Guard was able to reach the family, despite deteriorating visibility, and a woman and four female children were hoisted to safety in a Dolphin helicopter.

I am pleased this family was rescued, and I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard, the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, and South Carolina's Department of Natural Resource.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING GREGG RUSSELL

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the efforts and talents of Hilton Head's very own folk musician and, indeed, a South Carolina legend by the name of Gregg Russell.

For 40 years, Gregg has highlighted and delighted families around the Old Liberty Tree at Harbor Town in Hilton Head Island.

While these days Gregg is singing songs for families and children, he shared the stage with many celebrities over the years. He even wrote the hit song, "Come Away Home" about Hilton Head Island, which inspired the movie of the same name.

His performances are renowned to locals and tourists alike who visit Hilton Head Island, and he has received a nomination for an Angel Award and won Best Children's Live Action Video in 2000.

Gregg doesn't just contribute with his music to our community, through

his charity, Hilton Head Heroes, Gregg and his wife, Wendy, provide needy and sick children every year with a vacation to Hilton Head Island as well.

On Gregg's 40th year anniversary—and it actually might be a few more than that—I am happy to draw attention to his career here on the House floor and thank him for everything he has done for the Hilton Head Island community.

PFAS ACTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the PFAS Action Act, a bill that I am proud to cosponsor and that will address a critically important issue in my district and across the country, PFAS contamination.

This bill will take bold action to address PFAS contamination and it contains a number of provisions in particular that will affect our smallest communities; and I want to share those today.

From the very early days when I became a Member of Congress, one of the issues that my residents were talking about more than anything else was the need to access clean water. In particular, Michiganders are concerned about increasing levels of PFAS and other toxic chemicals that we are continuing to find in our drinking water.

In Michigan, water is our identity. We are the home of the Great Lakes, and protecting our water and our waters is one of the most bipartisan issues you will find in the State of Michigan.

I have always believed that environmental security is homeland security, because it is about the safety and security of our kids and the preservation of our way of life in Michigan.

If you can't take your grandchildren fishing in the lakes you grew up on, or can't safely hand your child a glass of water without knowing they might get a learning disability, that is a threat to your family.

We have kicked the can down the road long enough when it comes to finally addressing the PFAS issue, and I am happy to stand here today to fight for a bill that will make a real difference in people's lives when it comes to clean water.

Today, the House is going to vote on several amendments that I drafted and introduced and come directly from on-the-ground conversations I have had with residents in my district. Here is a story for you:

In Michigan, roughly 25 percent of our households get our water from private wells, including myself and my family farm. And even though there is a great deal of public reporting on PFAS contamination in our public water sources, those of us who have private wells do not have a ton of access to best practices, information, how we test.

So back in 2020, I went on a wells and waterways tour in my district and hosted an evening in Davisburg, in Oakland County, right before COVID came to us to talk directly with people who have private wells about how we can make sure that our water is protected, clean, safe, and tested.

The response was overwhelming. We had 150 people on a weekday to talk about how we protect those of us on private wells. Most people do not have the resources, information, or tools they need to get their private wells tested.

These questions led to a bill that I am proud to cosponsor called the Test Your Well Water Act, which ended up being included in the PFAS Action Act. It requires the EPA to set up a website with information for residents on private wells, including how to get your water tested, treatment options, and financial assistance to help homeowners afford the necessary treatment.

I also wrote an amendment to the PFAS Action Act to ensure that this website also contains information about the health risks associated with PFAS. My goal was to create a resource that would be able to answer the questions I received from my constituents a little over a year ago in Davisburg.

The fight to protect safe drinking water for all Michiganders actually starts usually with local advocacy from people in our districts who are directly impacted by that PFAS contamination. This includes people like Stacy Taylor.

Stacy is a resident of my town of Holly, Michigan, and she gets her water directly from a well on her property. When she and her husband started experiencing serious health effects, she suspected there may be PFAS in her water supply.

Stacy conducted intense research on her well and Holly's history, digging through old documents, deeds, and maps to figure out where the problem may lie. When she presented her findings to our office—and she was diligent about coming to find me everywhere I was in the district—we reached out to the State agency that is responsible for testing our water sources in Michigan, and it turns out Stacy was right. There was PFAS in her water supply—in our water supply.

But discovering the contamination isn't the end of the story. We have to make sure that our towns and cities can clean up these chemicals and provide their residents with clean water, even our smallest communities.

Because of Stacy's dogged advocacy and countless other local folks across my district, one of my amendments to the PFAS Action Act will beef up assistance to local and community governments that would otherwise really struggle to pay for PFAS cleanup. The cost can often be prohibitive.

The stories my constituents have shared have helped shape this bill to be more effective and impactful. In the

richest and most powerful country on Earth, we have to have the ability to provide clean water to our citizens. We have to be able to lead healthy lives, and that certainly includes guaranteeing a clean water supply.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the PFAS Action Act, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILLY BARKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very distinguished American and longtime public servant of the people of Southeastern North Carolina as well as the United States Congress.

Billy Barker has served this institution for 24 years, 18 years for former Congressman Mike McIntyre and 6 years with me as agriculture field director.

He also served a number of years for North Carolina's longtime Commissioner of Agriculture, the late Jim Graham. Following more than three decades of serving the citizens of North Carolina, Billy recently retired from his work in public service.

Billy was one of my first hires after I was elected to Congress in 2014. He is a great friend who has been an incredibly valuable source of information for me and many others. The contributions he has made to the agriculture community and our farm families cannot be measured. Sometimes it was help on a pressing issue with USDA; other times, it was just a friendly visit to talk local scuttlebutt and take a break from the stresses on the farm.

It is no exaggeration to say that North Carolina's farm economy wouldn't look the same without Billy's hard work and influence. Through numerous hurricanes and other storms, the COVID-19 pandemic, and every other challenge, Billy Barker has been a constant presence on the ground, providing our farm families and rural communities a steady hand to guide them through recovery and ensuring they have the resources they need.

Without question, the citizens of North Carolina are better off for his service. I wish him a well-deserved retirement and a relaxing and rewarding next chapter of life. I am grateful for his service to the State, and I am proud to call him my friend.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SUTTER, CEO OF NORTH CAROLINA PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime friend, Bob Sutter, who will be retiring after serving 28 years as the CEO of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association.

Prior to his lifelong career in agriculture, Bob honorably served his country for 2 years in the U.S. Navy

and 5 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve. From there, he worked for the USDA Farm Service Agency, and then later took the helm of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association as its CEO in 1993.

Bob has made countless contributions to the North Carolina agriculture community, everything from the formation of the National Peanut Board, educating the public on health benefits of peanuts, and advocating for research to improve yields. He leaves behind a successful legacy of helping peanut farmers and their families establish and maintain successful farms that support our Nation's abundant food supply.

Bob has also been a leading voice for North Carolina producers when it comes to developing strong national farm policy. His advocacy in the halls of Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government, as well as the State legislature and beyond, has been critical to the development and implementation of policies that have helped many of our farmers survive major challenges and succeed—whether they were caused by the weather, trade distortions, or the market.

Bob has had a remarkable career, and on behalf of the agriculture community and the fine citizens of North Carolina, I thank him for his dedicated service to the State and to the many farm families he has represented all these years. I wish him and his wife, Sylvia, the best as they move into their next chapter of life.

HYDE AMENDMENT

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the long-standing Hyde amendment. For nearly 45 years, the Hyde amendment has received support from Republicans and Democrats alike. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle understood that no taxpayer money should be used to fund abortion. Every President since Jimmy Carter has signed the Hyde amendment into law, including President Obama.

As a Senator, President Biden was a strong supporter of the amendment. Yet, in his latest budget proposal, he removed Hyde protections that would enable taxpayer funding support for abortions, meaning that tax dollars taken from those who oppose it will now be used for just that. Regardless of where one stands on the issue, it is fundamentally wrong to take taxpayer dollars of someone who is opposed to abortion and use their hard-earned tax dollars to fund the same.

On the question of life itself, the Hyde amendment is credited with saving more than 2.4 million innocent lives from abortions since 1976. It is our moral obligation to fight for and protect the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves, the lives of those who are no different than our own.

I call on my colleagues to pass H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, to stand up for pro-life Americans, preserve the Hyde amendment, and ensure taxpayer dollars are not used to fund abortion.

PANDEMIC OF THE UNVACCINATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I have two unrelated topics that really got me going this morning.

The first is vaccinations. Over 40 percent of Americans are still not vaccinated. I mean, come on, what is going on? We need to wake up, America. We need to get vaccinated.

People are saying, "I want to live free or die." Well, people are living free and other people are dying. We need to get everyone vaccinated. Cases are rising every day. It is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

Madam Speaker, 97 percent of hospitalizations are unvaccinated; 99 percent of the COVID deaths are unvaccinated. We need to wake up.

There are people using social media poisoning the American people's minds and jeopardizing their health in the process. We need to work together to convince people that vaccinations are safe and that it makes sense to get vaccinated.

I want to applaud STEVE SCALISE and MITCH MCCONNELL for getting vaccinated and promoting it to the American people. We need everyone in this body to please do the same. You need to get vaccinated, not only for yourself, not only for your family, do it for other families, do it for the country, do it so the economy can stay strong.

Please, get vaccinated.

DACA PROGRAM

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, the second topic I would bring up is the Dreamers; the DACA program.

So many families are living every day with so much stress and anxiety because of their immigration status.

Last week, a Federal judge ruled that DACA must end, causing more anxiety and stress for these families. Congress should fix this. Give a pathway to legalization and citizenship, for Dreamers, for TPS recipients, and for the farm workers and other essential workers that make our country work. This is personal for me.

Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, August 22 of 1921, my father was born in a small medieval village on the mountains of Southern Italy. He immigrated to the United States as a young boy. He was the first kid from the neighborhood to go to college. He fought in World War II as a navigator on a B-24 and got the Distinguished Flying Cross. He came home and went to Harvard Law School on the GI Bill.

□ 1030

My father would always say, "What a country." He went on to live a great American success story. So, like I said, this is personal for me.

Twenty-seven years ago, I served as the young mayor of my hometown, the city of Glen Cove, New York. I addressed the growing issue of new immigrants from Central and South America who were gathering on street corners looking for work by creating the

first day-workers site anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America in 1994.

I relied on a fundamental American principle: All men and women are created equal. It is not that all men and women with a passport are created equal, or all men and women with a green card are created equal. Every human being should be treated with human respect and dignity, and we have failed to address this problem for 30 years.

Those same men who gathered on the street corners 27 years ago now have their own businesses, own their own homes, and their children went to school with my children.

One Dreamer graduated high school with my daughter, went on to graduate from college with a degree in biomedical engineering, got a master's degree in biomedical engineering, and is now pursuing a doctorate in the same subject. But, now, he is suffering every day, worrying about his immigration status, worried about how this court ruling will affect him and his family.

Dreamers have been shaken yet again. Let's fix this. Let's do it. Dreamers are ready to live the same American success story that my father lived.

Let's give Dreamers, TPS recipients, farmworkers, and other essential workers a path to citizenship, and let's do it now.

STANDING WITH PEOPLE OF CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Cuban people and in opposition to communism.

In the last week, we have seen thousands of people in Cuba rise up in protest against the decades-long communist regime that has oppressed millions.

Since these protests began, more than 100 people have been detained by the communist government or have been reported missing. In response to these protests, the government has shut down communications, turning off internet service to their own people.

When I see what is happening in Cuba, I am reminded again why America is the greatest country on Earth. In our country, a first-generation Korean American can build an American Dream here and become a Congresswoman. In our country, we respect and value our freedom of speech and expression.

My parents fled North Korea and the country's communist rule. My family knows what it was like to have to wait in line for basic necessities. That is not how people deserve to live, and that is how the people of Cuba are forced to live every day under communist rule.

We should stand with the people of Cuba. I stand with those fighting for freedom, justice, and democracy.

ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the crisis on our

southern border. As an immigrant to this country, I strongly support legal immigration and a system that is grounded in the rule of law.

The United States is a nation of immigrants. They add to the rich fabric of our country. However, we are also a nation of laws. The crisis on our southern border is not law and order.

As a Representative from California, a border State, I often hear from my constituents about their concerns with the chaos at our border created by the Biden administration's policies. The security of our borders and enforcement of our immigration laws are vital to the safety and security of our Nation.

We must contain this crisis and make it clear to the people that to come to America, you must do it legally.

REIMBURSE NATIONAL GUARD IMMEDIATELY FOR CAPITOL RESPONSE MISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. KAHELE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, "Always Ready. Always There." That is the motto of our National Guard, our citizen soldiers, who, since 1636, have been prepared at all times as the first line of defense for our country.

When a natural disaster strikes—hurricanes, wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions—who do we call? We call the National Guard.

When a human-made disaster strikes—chemical spills, large-scale electrical power outages—who do we call? We call the National Guard.

When States and local governments get overwhelmed because of situations beyond their control, who do those Governors, mayors, and State legislatures call? They call the National Guard.

When a global health pandemic cripples the country, who do we call? We call the National Guard.

And when an assault on our Nation's Capitol, a deadly insurrection, happens, who do we call to protect this hallowed beacon of democracy, to ensure a safe, peaceful transfer of power can occur? We called the National Guard.

Every single time—"Always Ready. Always There"—the National Guard has answered the call. Our National Guard keeps us safe and has done so since the inception of our democracy.

Following the deadly January 6 insurrection and leading up to the inauguration of our President and Vice President on January 20, Congress called upon the National Guard, and an unprecedented 26,700 guardsmen from across the country were deployed to secure our Nation's Capitol and protect the very lawmakers and staff that work in this Capitol.

The Guard then continued to serve and support civil authorities in Washington, D.C., for the next 137 days. They left their families. Many took un-

expected leave from their civilian jobs during a health pandemic to report to our Nation's Capitol. They stood watch 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, many times in the frigid cold in the dark of night.

Many of us got to know them personally. We brought them food, coffee. We met them on the ramp at Andrews Air Force Base. We took pictures on the Capitol steps. We shook their hands and thanked them and their families for their service.

Our National Guard fulfilled their duty bravely and completed their mission. Now, it is Congress' turn to not only pay our respects but pay the bill that is due. What bill? What am I talking about? Well, it cost \$521 million to protect our Nation's Capitol for those 137 days.

National Guard leadership, adjutant generals, and State Governors sent their guardsmen to our Nation's Capitol with the promise that those funds would be repaid in a timely manner. As a result, the Army and Air National Guard paid for the Capitol Response mission and fronted the money from their own fiscal year 2021 funding. Time is of the essence, and we must pay them the money that we owe immediately and before August 1.

The reality is, if we fail to issue reimbursements by August 1, there will be real consequences. The National Guard Bureau has already sent out notices to States regarding canceling the remaining annual training days and/or canceling August and September drills. If training is canceled, several thousand guardsmen will not have enough service time this fiscal year to receive credit for a good year toward military retirement.

Approximately 2,000 functional and occupational training schools will be canceled, affecting their readiness, pay, and career progression. Ground vehicle and rotary wing operations and maintenance will be halted. Air National Guard flying operations will be negatively impacted, as they just only now begin the recovery from the effects of the pandemic. The 54th Security Forces Assistance Brigade combat training center rotation next month, in August, will be canceled.

Without reimbursement by August 1, it will take years to recover our readiness, which will be immediately impacted and decrease by up to 20 percent.

Those are some of the operational and readiness impacts of not meeting that August 1 deadline. But the real damages, Madam Speaker, are the profound personal impacts, which will have an immediate effect on the morale of those soldiers and airmen, their families, and retention across the 54 States and territories.

The increased psychological stress on our National Guard servicemembers and families in an already highly stressed environment is absolutely unacceptable. They are being asked to suffer, to sacrifice, because this body,

Congress, is unable to meet its end of a good-faith agreement with State leaders fully expecting to be reimbursed and not having to “take it out of hide,” which is what the National Guard is being asked to do now.

To put it simply, guardsmen—and I hear from them every single day—are in absolute disbelief that after all they have done this last year, answering our Nation’s call, this is how they are being treated.

Madam Speaker, today is July 21. We have 11 days. We must take immediate action. I urge all of us in Congress to swiftly come to an agreement on an appropriations emergency bill that includes full reimbursement of \$521 million for our National Guard by August 1. That is the least we can do for our citizen soldiers and their families who are always ready and always there.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CHARLES “CHUCK” POETTCKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles “Chuck” Poettcker who passed away suddenly on Saturday.

I had the honor of calling Chuck a friend. And I know that he is leaving a legacy that has impacted so many.

A U.S. Army veteran, Chuck served in the 101st Airborne Division stationed at Camp Evans in South Vietnam. At just 20 years old, he and his unit were given orders for a rescue mission in Laos. They were tasked with rescuing two door gunners and recovering the bodies of a downed helicopter pilot and co-pilot. Because of his heroic actions during the mission and journey back to safety, Chuck was awarded the U.S. Army Bronze Star.

A man of faith, Chuck prayed that if he made it out alive, he would dedicate his life to building something of value for others. He did just that.

He returned home and began a career as an apprentice carpenter, taking night classes in construction management at what is now the Southwestern Illinois College. He went on and founded Poettcker Construction, leading the company for 41 years. Today, the company employs over 200 families across 26 States.

He was also committed to his community and giving back to the Metro East area there in southern Illinois through numerous charities.

Madam Speaker, my prayers go out to Chuck’s wife, Linda, and his family and many friends during this difficult time.

SUPPORTING APPRENTICESHIPS FOR VETERANS

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I also rise today to talk about the fact that when I ran Bost Trucking company for 10 years, many of our hardest workers and most trusted employees shared something in common. They were veterans.

The military teaches servicemembers invaluable skills, leadership, team-

work, and dedication to compete and complete the missions that they are assigned. But many veterans are facing challenges in finding work after COVID-19 shutdowns. That is why I have introduced the Veterans’ Agricultural Apprenticeship Act.

This bipartisan bill will help connect out-of-work veterans with farmers and ranchers who are in need of on-the-farm labor. It will help farmers and ranchers expand their operations while also offering the veterans new skills and career paths once they return home.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida (Mr. LAWSON) and our bipartisan group of 15 additional cosponsors for supporting this critically important bill. I hope that more of our colleagues will join us in helping advance a win-win solution to an ever-growing problem.

INVESTING IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I stand today before this deliberative body to talk about the importance of rural infrastructure; more specifically, watershed and flood control infrastructure.

Our Nation’s watershed dams play a critical yet silent role in many of our daily lives. Across the Nation, watershed projects provide an estimated annual benefit of \$2.2 billion in reduced flood and erosion damage and improving wildlife, habitat, recreation, and water supply for more than 47 million people.

In my home State of Oklahoma alone, there are more than 2,000 watershed dam projects that help Oklahomans meet a myriad of public needs: public safety, water supply, soil health, and fish and wildlife management, just to name a few.

□ 1045

In fact, the country’s first upstream flood control dam, Cloud Creek Site No. 1, was built right in the backyard of my district in Washita County. Built in 1948, following the passage of the Flood Control Act of 1944, the dam allowed for the preservation of farmland, wildlife, and several municipal services.

Fast forward to today, and many of our country’s 12,000 watershed dams have exceeded their designed lifespan. Like so much of the public infrastructure investments across this country, our watershed dams are aging and need to be upgraded to remain safe and continue to provide benefits for generations to come.

Seeing the need to rehabilitate many of our dams, in 2000 I authored the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments which have provided important investments to help countless dams in need of repair.

After more than two decades of funding through the Small Watershed Re-

habilitation Amendments, more than \$900 million has been appropriated for rehabilitating aging dams. In the 2018 farm bill alone, we provided \$50 million per year in mandatory funding for watershed rehabilitation and management.

I am proud to mark the 20th anniversary of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments being signed into law this past year, but we must not delay the continued need to rehabilitate and repair other aging dams and water infrastructure. These silent sentinels are vital to public safety, economic prosperity, community viability and must not be allowed to fail.

We learned a lot of lessons 20 years ago in passing the dam rehabilitation bill. Now we must continue this mission as we debate and consider infrastructure legislation.

Madam Speaker, to aid in these efforts, I include in the RECORD the brought forth report at [damsafety.org \smallwatershed](https://damsafety.org/smallwatershed).

In closing, as Congress negotiates on how best to invest in our Nation’s infrastructure, we must continue to invest in the rehabilitation of these aging public works.

It is time to put the lessons of past appropriate investment to good use and build the capacity of a new generation to protect critical infrastructures for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY J. BURKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and success of Timothy J. Burke, who retired from the Omaha Public Power District on July 2 after serving the company for 24 years. He began his career with OPPD in 1997 as vice president and in 2015 took over as the company’s 12th President and CEO.

During his time with OPPD, Tim faced some tough challenges, but with his tenacity and great leadership skills, he overcame them all.

Burke’s tenure as CEO will be remembered as one of transition. He made several decisions early on that set the future for OPPD. When he became the CEO, OPPD initiated utility-wide lean financial work to make the utility financially efficient and strong. Burke also made what he called the most difficult decision he ever made or had been involved with, recommending the closure of Fort Calhoun Nuclear Generating Station due to financial concerns and economies of scale at the country’s smallest nuclear plant.

In addition, under Burke, the company continued to achieve financial stability and 5 straight years of no general rate increase—which is amazing—which is now in its fifth year of no rate increases. Further, Burke’s time at OPPD included a transition to more renewable energy and the commitment to be a net zero-carbon emitter by 2050.

Throughout his career, Burke has remained active in local and industry organizations. His recent involvement includes the American Public Power Association, Large Public Power Council, Nebraska Power Association, the Business Ethics Alliance trustee, and the past chair and executive committee of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce and United Way of the Midlands. He has also been heavily involved with Offutt Air Force Base and STRATCOM and has served as chair of the STRATCOM Consultation Committee. He is on the executive committee of the Offutt Air Force Base Advisory Council, and he has been a civic leader with the Air Force Chief of Staff and the Air Force Global Strike Command Civic Leader program.

I had 16 assignments in the Air Force and found the local community around Offutt to be the most supportive and welcoming of all, and Tim embodies that patriotic welcoming spirit to the fullest.

Family is extremely important to Tim. He and his wife, Terri, have three sons, five grandchildren, and a sixth grandbaby on the way.

Post retirement, Tim is looking forward to first spending more time with his family and then finding ways to keep himself busy in the local area. He has been heavily involved in the local area, and I am sure he will continue to do so, and we need him.

On top of all of this, one of Tim's passions is music, especially playing with his Irish pub band, the Shenanigans, with two of his sons. Burke is an exceptional leader and a skilled communicator and has served the Omaha area with honor and distinction.

We thank Tim for his time with OPPD and for keeping the power on for those living in southeast Nebraska.

HYDE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to President Biden's budget proposal for its exclusion of the Hyde amendment, which for 45 years has protected Americans from forced financial complicity in abortion and abortion services.

When Congress passed the Hyde amendment in 1976, our country's lawmakers had the sense and decency to agree that if abortions were going to take place in this country, then at least dissenting Americans wouldn't get stuck with the bill. Forcing people to pay for the killing of babies with their tax dollars is unconscionable. That is why the Hyde amendment was passed.

Now, the President wants to revoke this protection, as if his \$6 trillion budget—which would blatantly require us to raise taxes or print money unto bankruptcy—wasn't already disastrous enough.

I believe that life begins at conception and that unborn children in our

country have a right to live. Every Member of Congress should, but one does not need to in order to support the Hyde amendment, which prohibits the Federal Government from forcing the American public to do something that we should never ask them to do: pay for abortions.

HUTCHINSON FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the First District's Hutchinson Community College football team on their National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship.

Earlier this month I spoke on this very floor about playing eight-man football in rural Kansas. I indicated there were clear winners and losers in the game. On June 5, 2021, the Blue Dragons finished the regular season as clear winners, undefeated, and ranked number one. On top of that, first year Head Coach Drew Dallas went on to be named the 2020 through 2021 NJCAA Football Coach of the Year.

This is the program's first national championship and third undefeated season. The talent, time, and effort that these student athletes put into playing football while obtaining a college education is remarkable.

Congratulations again to the Hutchinson Community College football team and to Coach Dallas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY CAZILLO III

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KAHELE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anthony Cazillo, III, who passed away last month at the young age of 26 years old.

Anthony made an exceptional impact in his short life in the lives that he touched and in the community that he lived. He served as a township supervisor in Pequea Township, Lancaster County, and he was running for reelection this year.

To serve in elected office at such a young age speaks to the life of service that Anthony lived and the passion that he had for improving his community. One of Anthony's goals as a supervisor was to "make Pequea Township boring again." This is just one example of his wit, his sense of humor, and I believe indicative of the servant's spirit that he carried as a local elected official.

Anthony was a graduate of Millersville University and the Penn Manor School District. He is survived by his wife, Katelyn; his parents; and his sisters.

My condolences and prayers of comfort are with the Cazillo family, his friends, and all those who grieve for Anthony.

I was really thankful to have gotten to know him in recent years. We certainly wished that Anthony could have been with all of us longer, but we do

give thanks for the time spent with him.

UTZ'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an iconic business and household brand name from Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

Utz Brands of Hanover—the "Snack Food Capital of the World"—is celebrating its 100th year in business and now has the fifth generation of family members as part of the company.

Founded as Hanover Home Brand Potato Chips by Bill and Salie Utz in 1921 with just \$300, the company used hand-operated equipment to produce up to 50 pounds of potato chips per hour from their home.

Quickly outgrowing the volume they were able to produce from their home, the company changed its name to Utz Potato Chip Company and purchased land to build their first factory on Carlisle Street in Hanover in 1947.

Fifty pounds of potato chips per hour in 1921 has grown to 5.5 million pounds of snacks produced each week. Utz Brand operates 15 factories in the United States, generating over \$1 billion in sales annually. The company's headquarters and six manufacturing facilities, as well as 1,800 employees who staff those facilities, call Pennsylvania's 11th District home.

Utz is certainly one of the key families and companies that have earned Hanover the moniker of the "Snack Food Capital of the World." They have made an extraordinary impact on the community that I represent through their business and charitable efforts.

I want to congratulate them on this remarkable milestone of 100 years in business and wish them continued success in the next century as well.

EIGHTEEN DAYS FOR H.R. 18

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of life and our Nation's unborn children.

For over 40 years, the Hyde amendment has kept taxpayer money from funding abortions, and it is estimated to have saved at least 2.4 million lives.

Polling consistently shows that a majority of Americans oppose being forced to pay for abortions with their tax money. This is something that we all should be able to agree on. However, House Democrats recently passed a spending bill for the Department of Health and Human Services that, for the first time since 1976, does not include the Hyde amendment.

H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, would make the prohibition against Federal funding for abortions permanent and government-wide.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18.

Life is a precious gift, and we must do all that we can to ensure that we defend the unborn who have no voice to speak for themselves.

RECOGNIZING VFW POST 7814

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Thomas-Fields Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7814, which was founded on July 11, 1946.

When African-American veterans of World War II returned to their homes in the Staunton-Augusta area, they were, unfortunately, excluded from their local VFW Post. Following their denied admittance, a group of 42 veterans then applied for a charter to organize their own post, which would carry the namesakes of Charles Thomas and Glenwood Fields, two African Americans from Staunton who died while serving their country in World War II.

Since its formation, the Thomas-Fields Post has been an active civic organization in the African-American community of Staunton and Augusta County, as well as playing an active and significant role in local area veterans' activities.

While the post welcomes all veterans, it continues to highlight the heritage of African-American and minority veterans who have served our Nation.

Recently, Post 7814 was recognized as a Meritorious Post by the State VFW Federation for its outstanding work over the last 5 years and was also named an All-American Post by the National VFW Council for the first time in its history.

The Thomas-Fields VFW Post is to be commended for its work in our community and their efforts to aid those who served. I congratulate them on this historic milestone and wish them another successful 75 years.

□ 1100

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for the Cuban people who have taken to the streets to protest the oppressive Communist regime there, a regime that has stripped them of their basic human rights.

Since its inception 62 years ago, the Communist Party has caused immeasurable harm and created unbearable conditions in Cuba.

Cuba's people want freedom. They want to provide for their families and know that their kids will be safe and healthy—and Cuba is not that place, and it hasn't been that place for far too long.

Right now, its people are facing widespread power outages, the most severe food shortage since the 1990s and inflation rates nearing 500 percent.

In an effort to contain the truth about what is really going on, the government cut off its citizens' access to the internet to silence the dissent.

Instead of trying to address the issues plaguing the island nation, they have, instead, decided to suppress those voicing concern. Since the protest began, more than 100 people have been

detained or have gone missing, including artists, peace activists, and priests. It should be no surprise that Cubans are marching in the streets demanding their rights.

We have all seen the images of people waving American flags and fleeing in makeshift boats overflowing with folks willing to risk their lives to experience freedom. They want what we are so blessed to have, and, yet, there is a segment of our society bent on pushing the United States toward the failed notion of communism and socialism. It is mind-boggling.

We must stand strongly for freedom, stand firmly with the people, and stand boldly with a free Cuba.

DEFENDING THE UNBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the precious lives of our unborn. Last week, my colleagues in the Appropriations Committee voted to authorize taxpayer-funded abortions by passing a spending bill that omits the Hyde amendment.

The Hyde amendment prohibits taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortions and it has saved an estimated 2.5 million lives. It has been included in every appropriations package since 1976 until now. The move to eliminate Hyde is another blatant attack on the sanctity of life, following this administration's budget proposal that has also failed to include the Hyde amendment and other pro-life policies in Federal programs.

This is a crucial moment for all of us to uphold the inherent dignity of human life. Every unborn child should have the right to life. There are few greater priorities. I will continue to do everything in my power to protect the vulnerable, to safeguard taxpayer consciences, and to preserve the sanctity of life. We must protect the Hyde amendment.

LIBERTY FOR CUBA

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate for liberty, for freedom. For over 60 years, the Cuban people have been oppressed by the worst impulses of a brutal regime and the failed promises of Communist propaganda. What we are seeing today is those people are saying "enough is enough." The Cuban people are shouting "libertad" for freedom, waving American flags and rising up to finally demand independence and autonomy over their own lives.

Cuba is showing us in real time. In fact, they are showing the world in real time that massive government control over society simply does not work, and how its demise quickly spirals into deadly conditions of poverty, starvation, and hopelessness.

I recently had the chance to speak to a Cuban American and a Cuban. Their stories are horrific about the atrocities that their own government is using,

the violence, that they are using to control the society.

This is causing enough desperation that Cubans will stare down their oppressors in the streets. They will risk their lives, crossing treacherous waters on homemade rafts to reach the shores of America, the shores of freedom.

The truth is clear: The United States remains the beacon of freedom and democracy around the world. We must do everything in our power to keep it that way and valiantly support liberty at home and abroad.

FLEEING OF TEXAS DEMOCRATS

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express disappointment in the dereliction of duty of Texas Democrats who last week in the State legislature decided to flee the State to keep the Texas House from taking any action during the special session.

This stunt, complete with private jets and plenty of congratulatory media coverage, slows the passage of initiatives including: family violence prevention, property tax relief; support for our teachers; and a widely supported bill to strengthen election integrity.

The majority of Texans support safeguarding our elections. Unfortunately, colleagues in the Texas House are peddling lies about the election integrity bill. In reality, this measure merely disbands COVID-19 voting protocols that had never been used prior to 2020, while creating a more secure voting process.

Showing ID, proving who you are in a State and Federal Government election allows thousands of people to enter illegally every single day, and ending voting at 4 o'clock in the morning. It is time for the media and the Washington elites who are cheering on this charade to see it for what it really is: political theater. Texans deserve better.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BROWNLEY) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, with confidence, we approach Your throne of grace, praying for Your protection over us this day. Deliver us from all that seeks to undo our noble responsibilities.

Save us from our adversaries who attempt to thwart our best efforts, whose

words target our integrity, and whose anger and prejudice will not yield to reason. We pray Your deliverance.

Save us from our cultural rancor. In this country where we are quick to take sides, reckless in our judgment of the other, and have found ourselves mired in doubt, confusion, mistrust, and hopelessness, we pray Your deliverance.

Save us from ourselves, for we are as culpable as those we accuse. Forgive us our shortsightedness, our self-preservation, our hardened hearts, and our lack of faith. When we cling to our own certainty and rightness, we pray Your deliverance. Then call us to hold fast to Your righteousness, that we may once again thrive in the confidence and the hope we find only in You.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, last year, in my hometown of Buffalo, New York, we experienced a 90 percent increase in gun violence; 355 people were involved in this.

As of July of this year, 46 people have lost their lives to gun violence. This morning, the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force heard from experts in community violence interventions. These experts affirmed what we know; that gun violence in our country is tearing families and neighborhoods apart. Their testimony adds support for our efforts to provide \$5 million in the American Rescue Plan Act funding to groups in Buffalo to prevent and reduce violence before it occurs.

This funding will support trusted messengers, good messengers, credible messengers; a coalition of peace-

keeping organizations who will work on our streets to stop violence before it occurs.

Congress passed the American Rescue Plan to deliver relief to communities ravaged by the pandemic. Now our communities are facing a spike in violence that began during the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, they need help, and they need help now.

INFLATION IS TAXATION

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact of rising inflation on American consumers.

The Consumer Price Index jumped by 5.4 percent this year through June, the largest year-over-year gain since 2008. From the higher cost of gas, to the higher price of used cars, to the price of food at your local grocery store, small businesses and Americans are paying more for goods and services, due in large part to government spending during COVID-19 and now Democrats' reckless economic agenda.

It is as simple as this: Inflation is taxation.

As a small business owner for 50 years, I can tell you these increased prices are creating challenges for consumers whose budgets are being stretched thinner and thinner every single month.

The Democrat solution to all of this? Ram through a partisan \$3.5 trillion package that will further increase taxes on the American people and completely disregard rising inflation.

It is pretty simple.

Raising taxes, less jobs.

Lower tax, more jobs.

Congress must return to some fiscal sanity and Democrats must resist the temptation to spend our way out of this situation, as rising inflation and the growing national debt become an unrelenting enemy.

In God we trust.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise on the 200th day of the House Democrats delivering for the people.

Madam Speaker, over the years, I have had the opportunity to mentor young girls from hard-pressed families, and I will tell you this, they taught me more than I ever could teach them. And I learned that even with mothers working two jobs, there were weeks of just peanut butter in their pantry and having to move place to place just to find affordable rent.

That is why I celebrate the historic expansion of the child tax credit in the American Rescue package, because it

has the power to lift millions of children out of poverty, give them the futures they deserve. It is going to help our families thrive and our economy to recover. We can build back better by lifting our children.

HONORING JIM STABERG

(Mr. TIFFANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks here, I want to wish my eldest daughter, Karlyn Tiffany, a happy birthday.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and resident of my district in Wisconsin. Jim Staberg of Hudson served in the Army from March of 1943 to June of 1946, and again September 1950 to July 1952.

During his first tour of duty, Mr. Staberg was originally assigned to the Army band, but as America was drawn into World War II, he found himself reassigned and serving as a gunner during vehicle patrols throughout Europe.

Mr. Staberg was involved in a heroic defensive stand by the Allies against Hitler's last charge at the Battle of the Bulge. He also served at the historic Nuremberg trials following the war, but this was not the end of Mr. Staberg's service.

Jim was shipped off to Korea for a second tour of duty, where he would, once again, defend freedom in the face of communist aggression. After his time in service, Jim married and had three children in Hudson, Wisconsin, which he still calls home today.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful State and Nation, I thank Jim Staberg for his service.

200 DAYS OF WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today marks the 200th day of this Congress and of House Democrats working for the people.

Working together with the Biden administration, we have put our economy back on track, curbed the spread of COVID-19, and put money into the pockets of our constituents. It was only Democrats that voted for the American Rescue Plan, which helped create 3 million jobs, deliver stimulus checks, and extend the child tax credit.

The American Rescue Plan also delivered on one of my most urgent priorities, ending the maternal mortality crisis. Allowing States to extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum care from 60 days to one full year postpartum will save lives.

Outside of the recovery package, we have continued working on other priorities, like advancing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and passing commonsense gun violence prevention measures to protect and improve the lives of everyday Americans.

Madam Speaker, in just 200 days, we have accomplished so much, but rest assured, we are just getting started.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. BUDD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to defend the conscience of American taxpayers. Since 1973, both sides of the aisle have agreed that taxpayers should not be forced to fund the taking of an unborn child's life through abortion. This consensus was enshrined in the Hyde amendment. The Hyde amendment has saved the lives of almost 2.5 million children, including over 65,000 in my home State of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, President Biden and Congressional Democrats have decided to abandon the Hyde amendment in this year's budget. This is a grave mistake that will cost the lives of more innocent children, and therefore, it must be reversed.

Madam Speaker, let's show that this House stands with life, believes in science, and opposes the evil of abortion.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois). Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, today, we mark 200 days of the 117th Congress and 200 days of delivering for the people.

From day one, House Democrats have prioritized the needs of everyday Americans, working families, and our children. We have delivered transformative, lifesaving legislation that focuses on our recovery from this pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan has been successful in getting shots in arms, workers back to work, and money in the pockets of families, and children back to school. This was one of the biggest jolts to our health and our economy in history, and we cannot let up on our efforts.

We must build on this momentum and pass President Biden's American

Families Plan and the American Jobs Plan, and we must seize this moment, rebuild strong, and rebuild by making bold, sustained investments in our Nation and in our future.

CZECH DEPOT EXPLOSION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month, I was grateful to participate in a Congressional delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly led by Senator ROGER WICKER and Senator BEN CARDIN. It was inspiring to see the extraordinary economic advances of Estonia and Bulgaria.

In Tallinn, Estonia, we were welcomed by the dynamic Prime Minister, Kaja Kallas, and the dedicated Foreign Minister, Eva-Maria Liimets. While in Tallinn, we learned that Russian diplomats had been expelled in April across the Baltics to join the protest of the Czech Prime Minister, Andrej Babis, exposing the irrefutable evidence that two Russian GRU agents were behind the 2014 ammunition depot explosion at Vrbetice, which killed two persons.

The same two Russian agents named by the Czech Republic are suspected by British authorities for poisoning former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018. The Czech Republic has correctly demanded Russia pay for damages.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chalmers and Lori Anne Carr of Titan Farms for their annual delivery of South Carolina peaches to Capitol Hill.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. JACOBS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act. This bill would make the Hyde amendment permanent and government-wide.

Mr. Speaker, Hyde saves lives. For more than 40 years, this amendment has protected vulnerable, unborn life by preventing taxpayer dollars from funding abortions. Named after Illinois Congressman Henry Hyde, the Hyde amendment has enjoyed decades of broad, bipartisan support.

During this time the Charlotte Lozier Institute estimates the Hyde amendment has saved over 2 million lives. I am proud to stand up for vulnerable life. As the father of a beautiful two-year-old girl, I have come to appreciate the sanctity of newborn life in a profound way. We owe it to them, and to each other, to protect their lives in every way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE). As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1215

SUPPORTING FREEDOM-LOVING CUBANS

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, freedom-loving Cubans have taken to the streets to protest the socialist, Marxist Castro regime that has held a deadly grip over Cuba for 60 years.

Cubans are protesting to secure the blessings of liberty that now so many in this country are showing disdain for. The socialist Castro regime embraces a backward economy that prides itself on taking everything it can from the people until there is nothing left. There are no means for justice, no opportunities for success outside the bounds of tyranny, and no consideration for the God-given rights of their people.

Let this be a lesson to the world and to my socialist colleagues across the aisle. Communism does not work. There is no example in history of any modern society benefiting from Marxist rule, and any attempt to paint socialist and communist dictatorships as anything but cruel is peddling lies and fiction.

The pro-democracy demonstrations in Cuba are sending a powerful message: Communism is oppressive and denies people their basic freedom.

Cubans deserve our strong, unwavering support, and I will always stand up for freedom fighters around the world.

TAX PLAN WILL SET BACK ECONOMY

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns with the far-left tax hikes proposed by the majority.

To help pay for their partisan spending sprees, the President and Democrats in Congress have proposed to double the tax on investment and raise our business tax rate to the highest in the developed world.

On top of this, they wish to repeal the stepped-up basis, a move that will disproportionately hurt family-owned farms and businesses.

The radical tax agenda will stifle investment and slow down our economic recovery at a time when communities

across our country continue to feel the effects of the pandemic and government lockdowns.

It will also hurt American competitiveness abroad and force even more businesses and jobs overseas. Increasing taxes on Americans while prices are rising faster than they have in more than a decade isn't just irresponsible; it is dangerous.

The Democrat tax plan will hurt workers and small businesses, diminish our position as a global business leader, and set our economy back for decades to come.

VACCINATING TO STOP RISE OF DELTA VARIANT

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of vaccinations, vaccine hesitancy, and the rising rates of the COVID-19 delta variant.

For the last few months, I have traveled across my district administering vaccines to Iowans. It has been a pleasure to see my constituents and the entire country have a renewed sense of freedom and begin to return to normal.

But fully engaged living is threatened by the delta variant, which is causing increased hospitalizations and death, especially among those unvaccinated. Those vaccinated have a much milder course of disease.

It is miraculous to have three safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19 so rapidly. However, this speed of development may give some Americans pause. Therefore, it is critical to emphasize that no safety shortcuts were taken and reassure our constituents that they are safe and effective.

Decades of research informed the development of these breakthrough vaccines, and millions have been vaccinated with tremendously low risk. Given the rise in the delta variant, I would once again encourage everyone to get a vaccine as soon as possible so that we continue our path to normalcy and not go back to lockdowns and mask mandates.

This vaccine is how we get back to normal and get our lives back. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to your doctor.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this time to wish the youngest of 10 in our family, Mari-Eleanor Martino, a happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING KATIE NAGEOTTE

(Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, after postponing 1 year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am excited that, on Friday, the Olympic Games in Tokyo will officially begin.

What better way to mark this occasion than by recognizing the incredible accomplishment of Katie Nageotte, who will be one of the many Olympians competing in this year's summer games.

A native of Olmsted Falls, Katie is a graduate of Olmsted Falls High School and Ashland University who will be representing our community and country in this summer's games, competing in the women's pole vault event.

Her victory at the U.S. trials in the women's pole vault event caps a 5-year campaign to reach the Olympic Games, and she joins an elite list of northeast Ohioans to qualify for the games.

I am incredibly proud of Katie for earning this opportunity to represent not only our community but the United States.

Congratulations to Katie and her family. We look forward to watching her make northeast Ohio proud.

HONORING MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN MEHRMAND

(Mr. OBERNOLTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mehrmand.

Mr. Mehrmand was a lieutenant general in the Imperial Iranian Air Force.

Prior to the revolution in 1979, Iran and the United States were close allies. U.S. fighter jets were based in Iran, and a number of U.S. military personnel were as well. When the revolution occurred, the U.S. Embassy recommended that all Americans immediately evacuate. Mr. Mehrmand was instrumental in negotiating the evacuation of American citizens from Iran, and ultimately, nearly 5,000 Americans were successfully evacuated from the country.

Unfortunately, Mr. Mehrmand paid a very high price for that loyalty. He was accused as a traitor. He lost his property. Ultimately, he was forced to flee to the United States.

Today, Mr. Mehrmand is 92. He lives in my district in California, and he is proud to be a United States citizen.

I join my colleagues in thanking Mr. Mehrmand for his service to the people of the United States and his loyalty to the people with whom he served.

REMOVING QUALIFIED IMMUNITY IS MISGUIDED

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was in my mom's home county of Madison County last week to announce the details of my new bill, the Local Law Enforcement Protection Act, H.R. 4500.

I made this announcement standing alongside the respected men and women of our local law enforcement

departments across the region, including our great Madison County sheriff, Todd Hood.

My bill protects those who protect our communities every day by prohibiting States and localities that roll back or eliminate qualified immunity from receiving certain Federal grants.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives to defend our homes, families, and our neighborhoods. They face real danger. In 2020, 264 police officers were killed tragically in the line of duty. As of July 2021, that number already stands at 148.

As the defund the police movement goes mainstream in liberal cities and State capitals, and failed progressive policies like bail reform make our streets less safe, it is more important now than ever to stand with our law enforcement officers.

Police should always be accountable to the communities they serve, but they should never be subjected to unfair attacks or harassment simply for doing their job. Efforts to remove qualified immunity are misguided and ultimately hurt honorable officers who serve with integrity.

That is why I introduced this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mrs. RODGERS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Hyde amendment and urge us to be warriors for human dignity and human value.

We must cherish every person's unalienable human right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With technology today, we can look into the womb and watch the development of a baby day by day. Doctors are able to administer lifesaving care to babies before they are born. It is a miracle to witness, and it is proof that life begins at conception.

Our laws should reflect this science and the truth. For decades, my colleagues across the aisle, including President Joe Biden, agreed. I urge them to join us to protect life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 21, 2021, at 9:13 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1652.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

GLORIA J. LETT,
Deputy Clerk.

PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 535, I call up the bill (H.R. 2467) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 535, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-10, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 117-95, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2467

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “PFAS Action Act of 2021”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Designation as hazardous substances.
- Sec. 3. Testing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- Sec. 4. Manufacturing and processing notices for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- Sec. 5. National primary drinking water regulations for PFAS.
- Sec. 6. Enforcement.
- Sec. 7. Establishment of PFAS infrastructure grant program.
- Sec. 8. Listing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous air pollutants.
- Sec. 9. Prohibition on unsafe waste incineration of PFAS.
- Sec. 10. Label for PFAS-free products.
- Sec. 11. Guidance on minimizing the use of fire-fighting foam and other related equipment containing any PFAS.
- Sec. 12. Investigation of prevention of contamination by GenX.
- Sec. 13. Disclosure of introductions of PFAS.
- Sec. 14. Household well water testing website.
- Sec. 15. Risk-communication strategy.
- Sec. 16. Assistance to Territories for addressing emerging contaminants, with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- Sec. 17. Clean Water Act effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for PFAS.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION AS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall designate perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts, and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and its salts, as hazardous substances under section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9602(a)).

(b) **DEADLINE FOR ADDITIONAL DETERMINATIONS.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall determine whether to designate all perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, other than those perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances designated pursuant to subsection (a), as hazardous substances under section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9602(a)) individually or in groups.

(c) AIRPORT SPONSORS.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No sponsor, including a sponsor of the civilian portion of a joint-use airport or a shared-use airport (as such terms are defined in section 139.5 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)), shall be liable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) for the costs of responding to, or damages resulting from, a release to the environment of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance designated as a hazardous substance under section 102(a) of such Act that resulted from the use of aqueous film forming foam agent, if such use was—

(A) required by the Federal Aviation Administration for compliance with part 139 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) carried out in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards and guidance on the use of such substance.

(2) **SPONSOR DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “sponsor” has the meaning given such term in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Not later than 60 days after making a determination under subsection (b), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall make the results of such determination publicly available on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(e) REVIEW.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing a review of actions by the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up contamination of the substances designated pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of cleanup progress and effectiveness, including the following:

(A) The number of sites where the Environmental Protection Agency has acted to remediate contamination of the substances designated pursuant to subsection (a).

(B) Which types of chemicals relating to such substances were present at each site and the extent to which each site was contaminated.

(C) An analysis of discrepancies in cleanup between Federal and non-Federal contamination sites.

(D) Any other elements the Administrator may determine necessary.

(3) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(A) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on the Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

SEC. 3. TESTING OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

(a) **TESTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 4(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES RULE.**—

“(A) **RULE.**—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the Administrator shall, by rule, require that comprehensive toxicity testing be conducted on all chemical substances that are perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In issuing a rule under subparagraph (A), the Administrator—

“(i) may establish categories of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances based on hazard characteristics or chemical properties;

“(ii) shall require the development of information relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that the Administrator determines is likely to be useful in evaluating the hazard and risk posed by such substances in land, air, and water (including drinking water), as well as in products; and

“(iii) may allow for varied or tiered testing requirements based on hazard characteristics or chemical properties of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances or categories of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(C) **DEADLINES.**—The Administrator shall issue—

“(i) a proposed rule under subparagraph (A) not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

“(ii) a final rule under subparagraph (A) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph.”.

(b) **PERSONS SUBJECT TO RULE.**—Section 4(b)(3) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subparagraph (B) or (C)” and inserting “subparagraph (B), (C), or (D)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) A rule under subsection (a)(5) shall require the development of information by any person who manufactures or processes, or intends to manufacture or process, a chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.”.

(c) **PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.**—Section 4 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) **PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.**—

“(1) **TESTING REQUIREMENT RULE.**—

“(A) **PROTOCOLS AND METHODOLOGIES.**—In determining the protocols and methodologies to be included pursuant to subsection (b)(1) in a rule under subsection (a)(5), the Administrator shall allow for protocols and methodologies that test chemical substances that are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances as a class.

“(B) **PERIOD.**—In determining the period to be included pursuant to subsection (b)(1) in a rule under subsection (a)(5), the Administrator shall ensure that the period is as short as possible while allowing for completion of the required testing.

“(2) **EXEMPTIONS.**—In carrying out subsection (c) with respect to a chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance, the Administrator—

“(A) may only determine under subsection (c)(2) that information would be duplicative if the chemical substance with respect to which the application for exemption is submitted is in the same category, as established under subsection (a)(5)(B)(i), as a chemical substance for which information has been submitted to the Administrator in accordance with a rule, order, or consent agreement under subsection (a) or for which information is being developed pursuant to such a rule, order, or consent agreement; and

“(B) shall publish a list of all such chemical substances for which an exemption under subsection (c) is granted.”.

SEC. 4. MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING NOTICES FOR PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

Section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2604) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

“(7) PFAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), this subsection does not apply to any chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.

“(B) DRUGS AND DEVICES.—Paragraph (3) applies to a chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance which is manufactured or processed, or proposed to be manufactured or processed, solely for purposes of—

“(i) scientific experimentation or analysis with respect to a drug or device (as such terms are defined in section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) or personal protective equipment (as such term is defined in section 20005 of the CARES Act); or

“(ii) chemical research on, or analysis of, such a chemical substance for the development of a drug or device (as such terms are defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) or personal protective equipment (as such term is defined in section 20005 of the CARES Act).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.—

“(1) DETERMINATION.—For a period of 5 years beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, any chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance for which a notice is submitted under subsection (a) shall be deemed to have been determined by the Administrator to present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment under paragraph (3)(A) of such subsection.

“(2) ORDER.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(3)(A), for a chemical substance described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Administrator shall issue an order under subsection (f)(3) to prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of such chemical substance.”.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS FOR PFAS.

Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g-1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(16) PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall, after notice and opportunity for public comment, promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which shall, at a minimum, include standards for—

“(i) perfluorooctanoic acid (commonly referred to as ‘PFOA’); and

“(ii) perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (commonly referred to as ‘PFOS’).

“(B) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the validation by the Administrator of an equally effective quality control and testing procedure to ensure compliance with the national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) to measure the levels described in clause (ii) or other methods to detect and monitor perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water, the Administrator shall add the procedure or method as an alternative to the quality control and testing procedure described in such national primary drinking water regulation by publishing the procedure or method in the Federal Register in accordance with section 1401(1)(D).

“(ii) LEVELS DESCRIBED.—The levels referred to in clause (i) are—

“(I) the level of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance;

“(II) the total levels of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(III) the total levels of organic fluorine.

“(C) INCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may include a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances on—

“(i) the list of contaminants for consideration of regulation under paragraph (1)(B)(i), in accordance with such paragraph; and

“(ii) the list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored under section 1445(a)(2)(B)(i), in accordance with such section.

“(D) MONITORING.—When establishing monitoring requirements for public water systems as part of a national primary drinking water regulation under subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (G)(ii), the Administrator shall tailor the monitoring requirements for public water systems that do not detect or are reliably and consistently below the maximum contaminant level (as defined in section 1418(b)(2)(B)) for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances subject to the national primary drinking water regulation.

“(E) HEALTH PROTECTION.—The national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) shall be protective of the health of subpopulations at greater risk, as described in section 1458.

“(F) HEALTH RISK REDUCTION AND COST ANALYSIS.—In meeting the requirements of paragraph (3)(C), the Administrator may rely on information available to the Administrator with respect to one or more specific perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances to extrapolate reasoned conclusions regarding the health risks and effects of a class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances of which the specific perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances are a part.

“(G) REGULATION OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCES.—

“(i) DETERMINATION.—The Administrator shall make a determination under paragraph (1)(A), using the criteria described in clauses (i) through (iii) of that paragraph, whether to include a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in the national primary drinking water regulation under subparagraph (A) not later than 18 months after the later of—

“(I) the date on which the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances is listed on the list of contaminants for consideration of regulation under paragraph (1)(B)(i); and

“(II) the date on which—

“(aa) the Administrator has received the results of monitoring under section 1445(a)(2)(B) for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; or

“(bb) the Administrator has received reliable water data or water monitoring surveys for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances from a Federal or State agency that the Administrator determines to be of a quality sufficient to make a determination under paragraph (1)(A).

“(ii) PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For each perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances that the Administrator determines to regulate under clause (i), the Administrator—

“(aa) not later than 18 months after the date on which the Administrator makes the determination, shall propose a national primary drinking water regulation for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of

perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(bb) may publish the proposed national primary drinking water regulation described in item (aa) concurrently with the publication of the determination to regulate the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(II) DEADLINE.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Administrator publishes a proposed national primary drinking water regulation under clause (i)(I) and subject to item (bb), the Administrator shall take final action on the proposed national primary drinking water regulation.

“(bb) EXTENSION.—The Administrator, on publication of notice in the Federal Register, may extend the deadline under item (aa) by not more than 6 months.

“(H) HEALTH ADVISORY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Administrator shall publish a health advisory under paragraph (1)(F) for a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances not subject to a national primary drinking water regulation not later than 1 year after the later of—

“(I) the date on which the Administrator finalizes a toxicity value for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(II) the date on which the Administrator validates an effective quality control and testing procedure for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the requirements of clause (i) with respect to a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances if the Administrator determines that there is a substantial likelihood that the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances will not occur in drinking water with sufficient frequency to justify the publication of a health advisory, and publishes such determination, including the information and analysis used, and basis for, such determination, in the Federal Register.”.

SEC. 6. ENFORCEMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not impose financial penalties for the violation of a national primary drinking water regulation (as defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f)) with respect to a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances for which a national primary drinking water regulation has been promulgated under section 1412(b)(16) of the Safe Drinking Water Act earlier than the date that is 5 years after the date on which the Administrator promulgates the national primary drinking water regulation.

SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF PFAS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1459E. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS AFFECTED BY PFAS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a program to award grants to affected community water systems to pay for capital costs associated with the implementation of eligible treatment technologies.

“(b) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall publish guidance describing

the form and timing for community water systems to apply for grants under this section.

“(2) **REQUIRED INFORMATION.**—The Administrator shall require a community water system applying for a grant under this section to submit—

“(A) information showing the presence of PFAS in water of the community water system; and

“(B) a certification that the treatment technology in use by the community water system at the time of application is not sufficient to meet all applicable standards, and all applicable health advisories published pursuant to section 1412(b)(1)(F), for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(C) **LIST OF ELIGIBLE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES.**—Not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall publish a list of treatment technologies that the Administrator determines are the most effective at removing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances from drinking water.

“(d) **PRIORITY FOR FUNDING.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall prioritize an affected community water system that—

“(1) serves a disadvantaged community;

“(2) will provide at least a 10-percent cost share for the cost of implementing an eligible treatment technology;

“(3) demonstrates the capacity to maintain the eligible treatment technology to be implemented using the grant; or

“(4) is located within an area with respect to which the Administrator has published a determination under the first sentence of section 1424(e) relating to an aquifer that is the sole or principal drinking water source for the area.

“(e) **NO INCREASED BONDING AUTHORITY.**—Amounts awarded to affected community water systems under this section may not be used as a source of payment of, or security for (directly or indirectly), in whole or in part, any obligation the interest on which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not more than—

“(A) \$125,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023; and

“(B) \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

“(2) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1), \$25,000,000 are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for grants under subsection (a) to pay for capital costs associated with the implementation of eligible treatment technologies during the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on the date of enactment of this section.

“(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **AFFECTED COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM.**—The term ‘affected community water system’ means a community water system that is affected by the presence of PFAS in the water in the community water system.

“(2) **DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.**—The term ‘disadvantaged community’ has the meaning given that term in section 1452.

“(3) **DISPROPORTIONATELY EXPOSED COMMUNITY.**—The term ‘disproportionately exposed community’ means a community in which climate change, pollution, or environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, social, environmental, and economic injustices by disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, or youth.

“(4) **ELIGIBLE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.**—The term ‘eligible treatment technology’ means a

treatment technology included on the list published under subsection (c).

“(5) **PFAS.**—The term ‘PFAS’ means a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom, including the chemical GenX.”

SEC. 8. LISTING OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AS HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS.

(a) **LISTING.**—

(1) **INITIAL LISTING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue a final rule adding perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts, and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and its salts, to the list of hazardous air pollutants under section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(b)).

(2) **ADDITIONAL LISTINGS.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall determine whether to issue, in accordance with section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412), any final rules adding perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, other than those perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances listed pursuant to paragraph (1), to the list of hazardous air pollutants under section 112(b) of such Act.

(b) **SOURCES CATEGORIES.**—Not later than 365 days after any final rule is issued pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall revise the list under section 112(c)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(c)(1)) to include categories and subcategories of major sources and area sources of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances listed pursuant to such final rule.

SEC. 9. PROHIBITION ON UNSAFE WASTE INCINERATION OF PFAS.

Section 3004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6924) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(2) **PFAS WASTES.**—

“(1) **FIREFIGHTING FOAM.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations requiring that when materials containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances or aqueous film forming foam are disposed—

“(A) all incineration is conducted in a manner that eliminates perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances while also minimizing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances emitted into the air to the extent feasible;

“(B) all incineration is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, including controlling hydrogen fluoride;

“(C) any materials containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are designated for disposal are stored in accordance with the requirement under part 264 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations; and

“(D) all incineration is conducted at a facility that has been permitted to receive waste regulated under this subtitle.

“(2) **PENALTIES.**—For purposes of section 3008(d), a waste subject to a prohibition under this subsection shall be considered a hazardous waste identified or listed under this subtitle.”

SEC. 10. LABEL FOR PFAS-FREE PRODUCTS.

(a) **LABEL FOR PFAS-FREE PRODUCTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

(1) revise the Safer Choice Standard of the Safer Choice Program to identify the requirements for a pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, or rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or a stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to meet in order to be labeled with a Safer Choice label, including a requirement that any such pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, rug,

clothing, or upholstered furniture, or stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating does not contain any PFAS; or

(2) establish a voluntary label that is available to be used by any manufacturer of any pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that the Administrator has reviewed and found does not contain any PFAS.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “PFAS” means a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

SEC. 11. GUIDANCE ON MINIMIZING THE USE OF FIREFIGHTING FOAM AND OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT CONTAINING ANY PFAS.

(a) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the head of the U.S. Fire Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, and other relevant Federal departments or agencies and representatives of State and local building and fire code enforcement jurisdictions, shall issue guidance on minimizing the use of, or contact with, firefighting foam and other related equipment containing any PFAS by firefighters, police officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders, in order to minimize the risk to such firefighters, police officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders, and the environment, without jeopardizing firefighting efforts.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with the head of the U.S. Fire Administration, shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the guidance issued under subsection (a). Such report shall include recommendations for congressional actions that the Administrator determines appropriate to assist efforts to reduce exposure to PFAS by firefighters and the other persons described in subsection (a).

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the head of the U.S. Fire Administration and other relevant Federal departments or agencies, shall report to Congress on the efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant Federal departments and agencies to identify viable alternatives to firefighting foam and other related equipment containing any PFAS.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “PFAS” means perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, and any other perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency determines is used in firefighting foam and other related equipment.

SEC. 12. INVESTIGATION OF PREVENTION OF CONTAMINATION BY GENX.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall investigate methods and means to prevent contamination by GenX of surface waters, including source waters used for drinking water purposes.

SEC. 13. DISCLOSURE OF INTRODUCTIONS OF PFAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The introduction of any perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance by the owner or operator of an industrial source shall be unlawful unless such owner or operator first notifies the owner or operator of the applicable treatment works of—

(1) the identity and quantity of such substance;

(2) whether such substance is susceptible to treatment by such treatment works; and

(3) whether such substance would interfere with the operation of the treatment works.

(b) VIOLATIONS.—A violation of this section shall be treated in the same manner as a violation of a regulation promulgated under subsection 307(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1317(b)).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INTRODUCTION.—The term “introduction” means the introduction of pollutants into treatment works, as described in section 307(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1317).

(2) TREATMENT WORKS.—The term “treatment works” has the meaning given that term in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292).

SEC. 14. HOUSEHOLD WELL WATER TESTING WEBSITE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall establish a website containing information relating to the testing of household well water.

(b) CONTENTS.—The Administrator shall include on the website established under subsection (a) the following:

(1) Information on how to get groundwater that is the source for a household water well tested by a well inspector who is certified by a qualified third party.

(2) A list of laboratories that analyze water samples and are certified by a State or the Administrator.

(3) State-specific information, developed in coordination with each State, on naturally occurring and human-induced contaminants.

(4) Information that, using accepted risk communication techniques, clearly communicates whether a test result value exceeds a level determined by the Administrator or the State to pose a health risk.

(5) Information on treatment options, including information relating to water treatment systems certified by the National Science Foundation or the American National Standards Institute, and people who are qualified to install such systems.

(6) A directory of whom to contact to report a test result value that exceeds a level determined by the Administrator or the State to pose a health risk.

(7) Information on financial assistance that is available for homeowners to support water treatment, including grants under section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) and State resources.

(8) Any other information the Administrator considers appropriate.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, and appropriate State agencies in carrying out this section.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 15. RISK-COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall develop a risk-communication strategy to inform the public about the hazards or potential hazards of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or categories of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, by—

(1) disseminating information about the risks or potential risks posed by such substances or categories in land, air, water (including drinking water), and products;

(2) notifying the public about exposure pathways and mitigation measures through outreach and educational resources; and

(3) consulting with States that have demonstrated effective risk-communication strategies for best practices in developing a national risk-communication strategy.

SEC. 16. ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES FOR ADDRESSING EMERGING CONTAMINANTS, WITH A FOCUS ON PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

Section 1452(t) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f-12) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES.—Of the amounts made available under this subsection, the Administrator may use funds to provide grants to the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Guam for the purpose of addressing emerging contaminants, with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.”.

SEC. 17. CLEAN WATER ACT EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS AND WATER QUALITY CRITERIA FOR PFAS.

(a) DEADLINES.—

(1) WATER QUALITY CRITERIA.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register human health water quality criteria under section 304(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314) for each measurable perfluoroalkyl substance, polyfluoroalkyl substance, and class of such substances.

(2) EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR PRIORITY INDUSTRY CATEGORIES.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register a final rule establishing, for each priority industry category, effluent limitations guidelines and standards, in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, for the discharge (including a discharge into a publicly owned treatment works) of each measurable perfluoroalkyl substance, polyfluoroalkyl substance, and class of such substances.

(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate of each publication made under this section.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall award grants to owners and operators of publicly owned treatment works, to be used to implement effluent limitations guidelines and standards developed by the Administrator for a perfluoroalkyl substance, polyfluoroalkyl substance, or class of such substances.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the administrator to carry out this subsection \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until expended.

(d) NO INCREASED BONDING AUTHORITY.—Amounts awarded to an owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works under this section may not be used as a source of payment of, or security for (directly or indirectly), in whole or in part, any obligation the interest on which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) EFFLUENT LIMITATION.—The term “effluent limitation” has the meaning given that term in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).

(3) MEASURABLE.—The term “measurable” means, with respect to a chemical substance or class of chemical substances, capable of being measured using test procedures established under section 304(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314).

(4) PERFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE.—The term “perfluoroalkyl substance” means a chemical of which all of the carbon atoms are fully fluorinated carbon atoms.

(5) POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE.—The term “polyfluoroalkyl substance” means a chemical containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom and at least one carbon atom that is not a fully fluorinated carbon atom.

(6) PRIORITY INDUSTRY CATEGORY.—The term “priority industry category” means the following point source categories:

(A) Organic chemicals, plastics, and synthetic fibers, as identified in part 414 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(B) Pulp, paper, and paperboard, as identified in part 430 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(C) Textile mills, as identified in part 410 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(D) Electroplating, as identified in part 413 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(E) Metal finishing, as identified in part 433 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(F) Leather tanning and finishing, as identified in part 425 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(G) Paint formulating, as identified in part 446 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(H) Electrical and electronic components, as identified in part 469 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(I) Plastics molding and forming, as identified in part 463 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(7) TREATMENT WORKS.—The term “treatment works” has the meaning given that term in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

□ 1230

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021, is a comprehensive package of strategies to regulate PFAS chemicals, clean up contamination, and protect public health. I am proud to support this bipartisan bill which will deliver the tools communities across the country need to get PFAS out of our environment and out of the pathways that lead to our bodies.

PFAS are an urgent public health threat. They are toxic, persistent, and

being found in the environment across the country.

Just how common are they?

A recent report from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry concluded that “Most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS and have PFAS in their blood.” That finding is pretty astounding and incredibly concerning to families across the Nation.

After all, these forever chemicals have long been linked with adverse health effects including cancer, immune system effects, infertility, impaired child development, high cholesterol, and thyroid disease.

Industry has known about these dangers for decades, but we still have no Federal protections from PFAS in drinking water, no limits on PFAS air emissions, no Federal cleanup requirements on PFAS sites, and no limits on dumping PFAS into our waterways. We don’t even have labeling of PFAS ingredients to allow consumers to protect themselves.

Right now, the Environmental Protection Agency is playing catch-up after 4 years of little action by the Trump administration, but this bill will help EPA tackle the complex challenge of PFAS by taking direct action on the two most studied PFAS, PFOS and PFOA, right away, while setting a reasonable timeline to study and evaluate other PFAS. This approach puts the focus on following the science by tailoring testing to relevant subgroups of PFAS and focusing regulation on the riskiest chemicals.

Mr. Speaker, over a decade ago, PFOA and PFOS were voluntarily phased out by industry. While no longer in use, they continue to threaten public health because of widespread environmental contamination. This bill will drive environmental cleanups of that contamination and drinking water treatment, addressing the threat of PFOA and PFOS to communities across the country.

Now, all other PFAS will be tested as appropriate. And where that testing reveals risk, this bill will ensure that EPA takes timely action to prevent and mitigate environmental contamination.

In the meantime, this bill will pause the introduction of untested new PFAS while providing guidance and labels to help first responders and consumers limit their risk.

Mr. Speaker, the longer we delay action on PFAS, the worse the problem becomes. It is time for Congress to act and use every tool available to stop the flow of PFAS pollution into our environment and into our bodies.

A version of this bill was passed overwhelmingly last Congress with significant bipartisan support. It is championed—and I can’t underestimate how much Representatives DINGELL and UPTON of Michigan have worked on this bill. I commend them for their continued leadership.

I also thank Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee Chairman

TONKO and Ranking Member MCKINLEY for their continued support.

We can’t delay any longer. We should pass this bipartisan legislation today.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the PFAS Action Act so that we can finally take action on these dangerous forever chemicals.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting “no.”

The decision to oppose H.R. 2467 was not easy, but this version is not the right approach.

PFAS contamination is a serious problem in many congressional districts. That is true for me, too. My district has PFOA and PFOS contamination at Fairchild Air Force Base in Airway Heights, Washington, and I very much want it cleaned up.

I have problems, though, with H.R. 2467’s overwhelming, heavy-handed, and unscientific approach. I am struggling with why this aggressive expansion of Federal power and spending is the best answer that the people’s House can provide.

What does this massive proposal mean, and are we ready to go this far?

I cannot stress this enough: what we are addressing today is not about one, two, or just a handful of legacy chemicals. PFAS are, instead, an enormous and diverse class of manmade chemicals. EPA’s “Master List of PFAS Substances” contains more than 9,000 distinct chemicals, and the definition in this bill would apply to every one of those 9,252 chemicals and their uses.

Since the late fall of 2020, Congress has enacted 31 separate provisions to address PFAS. Congress has compelled cleanup of PFAS at military installations, banned certain uses of PFAS chemicals in products, pushed cooperative agreements for cleanups with States, and authorized \$500 million for removing emerging contaminants, especially PFAS, from drinking water.

Similarly, EPA has advanced nine major regulatory efforts for PFOA, PFOS, and some of the other PFAS chemicals.

EPA Administrator Regan also has commissioned a multiyear review process at EPA to consider any necessary modifications and to identify new strategies and priorities related to PFAS.

I want strong scientific backing for anything that we do to address PFAS chemicals. I am concerned that the mandates in the PFAS Action Act will frustrate EPA’s existing science-based plans. This bill instead will cement policy choices with long-range implications. It will overwhelm EPA’s existing resources to tackle environmental and public health challenges beyond PFAS.

The PFAS Action Act is not a measured approach. It prejudices outcomes,

showing little regard for objective science, risk assessment, transparency, and public input.

For example, the bill requires EPA to make regulatory determinations within 5 years on 9,250 PFAS chemicals—and without public participation.

This impossible deadline is a lawsuit waiting to happen. It requires every manufacturer and processor to conduct comprehensive testing on all 9,252 PFAS. This will overwhelm existing domestic laboratory capacity to focus on any other scientific or public health matter.

Like it or not, some PFAS chemicals have specific properties that aren’t easily addressed with other chemical types, like stability and water, oil, stain, and heat resistance. This makes them crucial in making semiconductors, lithium ion batteries in electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbine parts, medical devices and drugs, and protective gear for our military and law enforcement.

This bill would create a hostile environment in the United States of America for their manufacture and use. It will create a de facto ban in the marketplace and a boon for trial lawyers. It prevents new PFAS from coming on to the market for 5 years. This will result in the drying up of investment in safe PFAS chemicals and PFAS product purchases. It also will signal to trial courts that all PFAS are hazardous.

It singles out PFAS manufacturers and uses a complex and expensive regulatory approach. It uses an unattainable standard to ban incineration of PFAS-contaminated material. This will federalize local trash collection and clog our Nation’s remaining landfill capacity.

It attaches permanent, open-ended cleanup liability to any person who has ever been associated with PFAS, regardless of whether you were a good actor.

Mr. Speaker, cleanup liability is: “Strict,” so your intent is irrelevant; “Joint and several,” so you are not just responsible for your fair share, you are responsible for everyone’s shares;

And, “retroactive,” so it doesn’t matter if the liability occurred 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, or 50 years ago or even further back.

Given the compliance costs, the sidelining of investment, the endless liability under CERCLA, tort lawsuits, and the inability to make or finance safer replacement chemicals and products, it is not hard to see how H.R. 2467 creates a de facto ban on 9,252 chemicals. It threatens the viability of every industry that needs these chemicals and products that benefit our society.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this bill essentially bans the materials that are necessary for America to win the future. That includes protective gear for law enforcement at a time when violent crime is surging in our country.

In drafting this legislation over two Congresses, the majority never called

EPA to testify on the bill. Now we are left with the opinions of the politicians and the White House, not the career scientists and the experts who will have to implement it. So much for trust the science.

In addition, the Congressional Budget Office has had trouble scoring this bill and a nearly identical bill from last Congress. That is because there are so many PFAS chemicals, and the mandates in this bill have no limits on either the Federal Treasury or the private sector. The bill also poses a significant burden on EPA's time and the lack of additional resources EPA will have to tackle other issues critical to their mission.

We all want to have a good solution to address PFAS contamination, but this bill falls short, unfortunately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in opposing this approach. We can do better.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who has done so much to protect our environment.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his extraordinary leadership as chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I thank him for bringing this important legislation to the floor. I thank Mr. TONKO for his leadership as chair of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee, and I thank Mr. MCKINLEY, the ranking member on that subcommittee.

I respectfully disagree with the ranking member of the full committee, and I will tell you why. I join our colleagues in support of the PFAS Action Act to address the serious public health issue that is a threat; PFAS chemicals, which are contaminating the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat.

First, I salute Representative DEBBIE DINGELL, a crusader in our mission to protect our communities from dangerous PFAS chemicals. I thank, again, as I said, Chairman PALLONE, Chairman TONKO, and Ranking Member MCKINLEY.

Mr. Speaker, PFAS are referred to as "forever chemicals". They are so called because they do not easily break down and even accumulate over time. Right now, they are exposing millions of Americans to health risks ranging from cancer to asthma, and liver disease to thyroid dysfunction.

For babies, they can be particularly devastating with prenatal exposure potentially leading to abnormal growth in utero, low birth rate, and increased risk of childhood obesity and infections. Our distinguished chairman enumerated other threats to the health and wellbeing of the American people.

When people ask me: What are the three most important issues facing the Congress, I always say the same thing: Our children, our children, our chil-

dren, their health, their education, the economic security of their families, and a safe and clean environment where they can thrive in a world of peace in which they can reach their fulfillment.

Mr. Speaker, PFAS chemicals are clearly and seriously harming to our children's health.

A coalition of public health groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Medical Association, and Children's Environmental Health Network, have written: "These ubiquitous substances pose severe health risks across the United States and represent a growing threat to public health."

They further state: "PFAS are particularly dangerous . . . widespread and likely present in the drinking water of tens of millions of Americans."

Further: "Developing infants and children are particularly vulnerable to PFAS exposure. . . ."

"Of concern, almost all fetuses and infants will have some degree of exposure to PFAS. . . ."

"PFAS exposure before birth or in early childhood has been associated with decreased birth weight, effects on renal function and lipid serum levels, and immune system dysfunction."

That statement was from the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Medical Association, and the Children's Environmental Health Network.

In addition to our children and young people, PFAS also poses a serious risk to America's servicemembers. There is an epidemic of contamination on military sites with more than 400 sites across the United States affected.

I have had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of hearing the concerns of many of these families. It is not just about the servicemembers, it is about their children who are affected.

It is unacceptable that the men and women who sacrifice to keep us safe around the world face this danger to their health and that of their children here at home. Yet, despite these obvious and well-known risks, big corporations have for decades failed or refused to prevent their spread.

□ 1245

A new study published last week shows that based on EPA data, an estimated 30,000 industrial sites are known or suspected of using toxic PFAS; 12 times what had been previously estimated. We cannot accept a situation where big special interests' bottom line comes before the public's lives.

To address this crisis, 2 years ago, Democrats crafted strong legislation to rid our communities of PFAS. Many Democrats, and many Members here, played a key role in crafting PFAS-related bills that were included in the bipartisan NDAA agreement reached in the House that year.

I thank Chairman SMITH and the members of the committee. Unfortu-

nately, the GOP Senate then refused to support full protections against PFAS chemicals and cut those key provisions from the NDAA; that is, the National Defense Authorization Act.

Last year, House Democrats passed the PFAS Action Act of 2019, which passed with strong bipartisan support, but did not become law because MITCH MCCONNELL senselessly refused to take it up in the Senate.

Now the Democratic House will, once again, pass the PFAS Action Act and send it to the Senate. We are making clear that this legislation is a priority for the American people, and we will not relent until it is enacted.

This legislation will clean up our communities by designating the two most-studied PFAS as a hazardous substance by the EPA and setting a deadline for the EPA to make designation decisions about all other PFAS chemicals.

Next, it will create new, well-funded grants and partnerships with States to help clean up and remedy sites. It will stem the tide of further contamination with tough new testing, reporting, and monitoring requirements; strict limits on the introduction of new PFAS chemicals; limits on air pollution; banning unsafe incineration; and strong measures to hold contaminating companies accountable.

I spent the time to be so specific because this is such a threat to the health and well-being of our children, our children, our children. I urge a strong vote for this legislation, which honors our first responsibility of Congress, to keep our American people safe.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), an exceptional leader on the Energy and Commerce Committee and a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the bill in its current form. I support the efforts to address dangerous, high levels of PFAS in our drinking water systems and other areas of our environment. That is why I submitted a bipartisan amendment with Mr. SCHRADER that would simply exempt PFAS used to manufacture medical devices and drugs that are approved by the FDA. It was a very limited amendment.

Polytetrafluoroethylene, or PTFE, seen in the graph on the board behind me, is used to treat atrial septal defects, most of the time in young children. Thanks to great advancements in medical technology like this procedure, it is now done in an outpatient setting, rather than open-heart surgery. For years, I did open-heart surgery on people with ASDs, and now they can repair them with a device. This is one device that could be banned.

Vascular grafts to repair aneurysms or bypass blocked arteries are another example. I implanted hundreds of these type of devices in patients. The fact of

the matter is, it has been shown over and over that PTFE in devices poses no risk to people or to our environment. The bill in its current form fails to consider that fact and jeopardizes patient access to lifesaving drugs and devices, leaving physicians and patients with no viable alternative or an inferior alternative. Would anyone want to be treated with an inferior alternative when we are unnecessarily banning the best treatment? I would argue no.

Unfortunately, my commonsense, bipartisan, lifesaving amendment was not made in order. I hope this bill does continue to move through the legislative process and that we can work to address this issue. I urge a “no” vote on this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman PALLONE for yielding, and I thank him for his work on this piece of legislation, along with Mrs. DINGELL, a member of the committee. Obviously, the gentlewoman’s deceased husband was chairman of this committee and ranking member for many, many years and was a leader in many respects on addressing environmental challenges. This is an environmental challenge. There is no disagreement on that. There, obviously, is disagreement on specifics.

The gentleman who just spoke, in a very knowledgeable and thoughtful way, said he hopes this legislation moves forward, but he is in opposition to it. I understand he does not want it to pass. But his comment was that, hopefully, this would be perfected in the legislative process.

Now, I do not claim to be, Mr. Speaker, an expert on this chemical. I do know, however, that it affects my district, and every single congressional district in our country is affected by this challenge. That is because every district has faced the challenge of PFAS contamination, which has affected nearly 2,800 communities according to an analysis by the Environmental Working Group. I heard a figure of about 9,200 sites as well from the ranking member.

Like countless other districts in the country, Maryland’s Fifth District, which I have the privilege of representing, contamination has been detected at military installations. We are proud of our military installations. Pax River is a, I think, world leading air test, research, and evaluation center for naval air, as well as other air, including helicopters of the Army. Also in my district is the Naval Research Laboratory, Chesapeake Bay Detachment.

The citizens surrounding them are concerned, rightly, about what the contamination may have done to the water they and their children drink or bathe in. Thankfully, the defense authorization that we enacted in 2019 required our military to transition away from the use of PFAS chemicals in

firefighting fluids, a major source of contamination.

However, the PFAS pollution that has already occurred needs to be cleaned up, and this legislation would set requirements and deadlines for EPA to do so. Our citizens deserve to have that done. We must prevent PFAS chemicals from entering drinking water used by our communities. I think there is no disagreement on that.

PFAS has been called a forever chemical. Apparently, the biological fact of life is that it does not degrade over long periods of time, because they can linger in the human body for a whole lifetime, causing health effects ranging from cancers to reproductive and immune system deficiencies.

For 4 years, the previous administration claimed that it would take action through the EPA to protect Americans from PFAS contamination. Perhaps if they had done so, we wouldn’t have this legislation; but they did not do so. They failed to protect the American people from these harmful chemicals. So the committee has acted in this instance and previously.

Now it is time for Congress to act. Again, I am not an expert on this legislation, but I do know that the committee has carefully weighed how to make sure that we move forward, and in the view of people more expert than I, will not preclude every chemical from being utilized in needed and important items that we use every day in our society, but will provide, because of the designation as a hazardous material, that it be cleaned up where it is necessary to do so.

It ensures that EPA finally takes measures to prevent future release of PFAS chemicals into our environment and clean them up where such contamination has occurred.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me, not just because this is so important to the people living in Maryland’s Fifth District, but because it is critical to all Americans living in each and every one of our districts.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Senate to join us in taking this step to protect Americans’ access to drinking water and look carefully at the issues that have been raised by the ranking member, legitimate issues in the sense that, yes, we ought to make sure that we are doing the right thing and that the good is not outweighed by the bad.

In this instance, I think it is very clear that the good of this bill, the objectives of this bill, and the specifics of this bill, will redound to the benefit of the American people and each and every one of our communities, and I urge my colleagues, therefore, to vote “yes.”

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify that the previous administration, as well as the current administration, has been taking several actions in connection with PFAS; this large group of chemicals. We are talking about 9,252 chemicals; not just one.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), a member of the committee and a problem solver.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working to combat PFAS in the Great Lakes State that, truthfully, led the Nation in PFAS efforts for many years, including with my Michigan colleagues and sponsors of this bill.

Back in 2017, we hosted EPA staff at several contaminated sites in southeast Michigan so they could see firsthand the extent of the problem. We formed the Congressional PFAS Task Force and pushed for essential resources for PFAS research and cleanup efforts.

Many of our efforts have, actually, been enacted into law during the last administration and countless cleanup efforts are currently ongoing at all levels of government. In fact, over half of the provisions in this bill are already underway at EPA.

Unfortunately, other provisions in this bill would require the EPA to take a misguided approach by considering the group of more than 600 PFAS currently on the market, and the thousands of other unknown potential PFAS chemistries as if they were all the same.

Make no mistake, I believe this is a serious problem and it deserves serious solutions, but the bill before us today, although sincerely well-intended, goes too far. H.R. 2467 is so expansive that the CBO was unable to assign it a budgetary score, underscoring the untold cost and liability that it will impose on thousands, if not millions of manufacturers and consumers alike.

H.R. 2467 represents the largest expansion of regulatory authority at the EPA or perhaps any Federal agency in decades. But even more so, this bill will hamstring our small businesses, manufacturers, and water utilities by forcing them to take on so much cost and liability that they will be unable to comply or forced to raise prices and hire armies of attorneys all because Congress decided to substitute its political agenda for objective scientific judgment.

The Great Lakes Water Authority recently wrote to me regarding their concerns about the bill. A leading drinking water and wastewater treatment provider for southeast Michigan communities, Great Lakes Water Authority provides clean drinking water to nearly 40 percent of Michiganders. They told me this bill could likely cause them to be liable for trying to dispose of PFAS even if they are using current best practices.

As many would say, we ought to follow the science by letting the experts at EPA do their jobs and refrain from prejudging outcomes, overhauling existing regulatory structures, and most importantly, crippling our economy. I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

□ 1300

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who has always been so cooperative with us on both this bill and so many others.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for the cooperative work we have done on this bill, clean water bills, and many other issues. It is great to work with him and the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. The health effects that are known, are, you know, just a few things: cancer, kidney disease, pregnancy-related disorders, low birth weights, and immune system repression. But that is just what we know, so I guess we shouldn't worry about this too much.

Once it is in the environment, it breaks down. Once it is in your body, it doesn't go away. You get to certain levels and, then, you are going to start having these health effects. They are forever chemicals.

But, right now, there are no stringent requirements to test or monitor for PFAS. We don't know the extent of the pollution.

This bill is critical to address this legacy and public health risk and put us on a path to addressing the pervasive threat to our health, our citizens, and our environment.

I want to highlight a few sections that fall within the jurisdiction of my committee, the provisions which designate PFAS-related chemicals as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund.

We did put in a very limited exemption, which goes to firefighting at airports. Right now, the foam they use contains PFAS, and if they follow the FAA rules, they won't have liability. But DOD, FAA, and others are researching alternatives for foam retardants, and hopefully, they won't have to use this stuff in the near future.

There are two Clean Water Act amendments that will limit the additional release of PFAS; the first by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), who has been very persistent on this issue, closing a Clean Water Act loophole for discharges. Today, companies can legally discharge almost unlimited quantities of PFAS-related chemicals into rivers, streams, and lakes because the EPA has not set limits for discharging into our aquatic environment. This is unacceptable. The gentleman's amendment will set statutory guidelines for the EPA to act and set those limits.

Section 17 prioritizes the industry sectors with the greatest likelihood of discharging harmful quantities. The gentleman did great work on this. We worked with wastewater utilities and

industry representatives, and they agree with our approach.

I also rise in support of section 13, another Clean Water Act provision, by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO), a member of my committee, to prevent our sewers from being dumping grounds. Industrial discharges can now be discharged into local municipal systems, and if it is not known, then they can't deal with it. They can't pretreat it, and they can't get it out.

So, I rise in strong support of this bill, and I thank everyone who participated in its writing.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), another dynamic member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, throughout the consideration of this bill in committee, at Rules, and now here, several of my Democratic colleagues have argued CERCLA liability only attaches to two legacy chemicals, and we don't have to worry about others. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

This bill requires regulatory determination on 9,250 different chemicals, individually or in groups, on whether they will be CERCLA hazardous substances.

My colleagues argue that people don't have to worry about Superfund liability if they don't cause environmental harm. This argument is false.

Superfund liability is strict liability. If a party has any involvement, they are liable, period, end of story. That strict liability is what causes concern and is why Mr. BURGESS offered an amendment to make only those who cause the pollution pay for its cleanup. For some reason, the majority found issue with that amendment and prevented its commonsense consideration.

If there is interest on the other side of the aisle in changing the overall rules of Superfund liability, I am sure we would be happy to consider it. Short of that improvement, my colleagues should not take comfort that only reckless, willful, or irresponsible parties will be held liable under future CERCLA designations.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the chairman of the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee, who has worked very hard on this issue for a number of years.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding and for his leadership on this bill.

We know the health effects of PFAS exposure can be severe: cancer, thyroid problems, birth defects, and immune system disruptions, amongst others. Sadly, there are many communities and individuals across our great country who are suffering these health consequences.

Despite knowing the dangers of these forever chemicals, the Federal Govern-

ment has been slow to act. I say enough is enough.

The PFAS Action Act would require significant steps to ensure that our Federal Government is responding comprehensively and reducing the risk of exposure through our air, water, and consumer products.

It includes actions under numerous environmental statutes, including designating the two most well-studied PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, as hazardous substances and setting a deadline for a national drinking water standard to, at a minimum, ensure vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, infants, and children, are protected.

The bill includes other critical provisions to reduce exposure, empower consumers, and expedite cleanups.

Despite what some may want to suggest, designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA is not a ban. There are literally hundreds of hazardous substances that continue to be used in manufacturing processes and commerce broadly.

What it will do is ensure that polluters are held accountable to clean up their messes when toxic releases occur and ensure that remediation is done to an acceptable level.

We have waited far too long already for action. Despite promising initial steps from the Biden administration, I fear the EPA will not adequately address PFAS without clear direction from Congress. As the administration recognized, this bill supports the commitment across the branches of government to take on this challenge.

This is the bill our constituents and those living with PFAS in their communities need.

I thank Representatives DINGELL and UPTON for their commitment to addressing these dangerous forever chemicals, and I encourage Members to support this bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER), our policy chairman and a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2467.

This misguided bill treats all PFAS chemicals the same way, creating a de facto ban on many lifesaving products that Americans rely on.

By voting for this bill, my Democratic colleagues are ignoring the science, including peer-reviewed research that clearly shows that certain fluoropolymers, including some that have been used for more than 50 years, do not present a concern for human health or the environment.

Despite this evidence, my Democrat colleagues have refused to make reasonable changes to this bill so that fluoropolymer chemicals used in FDA-approved medical devices are not labeled hazardous substances under CERCLA and the Clean Air Act.

Let me put it bluntly. By not exempting the fluoropolymers used in medical devices already approved by

the FDA, you are denying people access to lifesaving products such as heart valves for infants and grafts for aortic aneurysm repairs.

I ask my Democrat colleagues: Are you so opposed to all categories of PFAS chemicals that you commit to refusing all medical devices and drugs containing the fluoropolymers you are banning?

If you must have open-heart surgery, will you instruct your doctor to avoid using any device or surgical instrument that has fluoropolymers regardless of the implications for the outcome?

If your child or grandchild needs an FDA-approved heart valve, do you commit to denying them that care since it contains fluoropolymers?

That is what you are trying to force on the general population with this legislation.

Furthermore, this bill will put millions of Americans who have already received medical devices containing fluoropolymers at risk. As noted in committee by my colleague, Dr. LARRY BUCSHON, with the passage of this bill, the FDA might have to designate all devices with any fluoropolymers as hazardous and recall them.

There is bipartisan agreement on the need to protect the public from harmful PFAS chemicals, but there is no rational reason why lifesaving fluoropolymers could not be exempted.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), who is the sponsor of the bill and who has really brought our attention to this issue and prioritized it from the very beginning.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for being such a strong leader and getting us to where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in support of this very important piece of bipartisan legislation, which I am leading with my good friend and colleague, Representative FRED UPTON.

This is a meaningful bill that is the product of good bipartisan work by the Energy and Commerce Committee. It passed the House with strong bipartisan support in the last Congress, and it is an example that bipartisanship does exist on Capitol Hill. This bill embodies it, and today's vote will once again validate that.

PFAS chemicals are an urgent threat to public health. This class of man-made chemicals is extremely persistent in the environment and has long been linked with adverse health effects, including cancer.

These chemicals were birthed out of the Manhattan Project, and, now, nearly every American, almost every American, has PFAS coursing through their blood after generations of use of these drugs in our modern society.

The EPA has understood the risks posed by PFAS since 1998. The Defense Department has understood the risks

since the 1970s. The FDA has understood the risks since the 1960s. And industry has known about the dangers for decades.

But we still do not have a strong Federal policy to combat these forever chemicals, which are a crisis. We have yet to set a national drinking water standard for PFAS that our water utilities need to meet. We have yet to designate them as hazardous substances under Superfund to jump-start cleanup. We have yet to regulate industrial discharges of PFAS into our water and our air. And we have yet to establish simple labeling that PFAS is in a product to allow consumers to protect themselves.

This can all change if we pass the PFAS Action Act.

According to the Environmental Working Group, over 200 million Americans are drinking water now contaminated with PFAS, and we are finding more and more contamination regularly. Just today, the Environmental Working Group reported that PFAS have been detected in 2,800 communities, including 2,411 drinking water systems, and at 328 military installations nationwide.

Listen to me: The Pentagon is not going to prioritize cleanup of these military sites until these chemicals are listed as the hazardous substances that they are.

I want to be clear: I love my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but there is nothing in this bill that would ban PFAS used in drugs, medical devices, or PPE. It will not ban masks.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill. It is time we protect Americans.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW), another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a decorated Navy SEAL.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a dangerous implication of this bill and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

There is no disagreement that the Federal Government has a role to play in cleaning up the most heavily contaminated sites and establishing standards so that our water is safe to drink. We are united in this, both Republicans and Democrats.

While this bill shares the spirit of that, frankly, it got hopelessly lost along the way. Instead, it creates a mess of lawsuits.

We could have fixed this. Republicans have pointed out the pitfalls. Democrats say those pitfalls don't exist. Experts say, yes, they do. We could fix this.

□ 1315

In committee we discussed how this impacts a full suite of products, from medical devices to computer chips.

But there is one element that is particularly concerning to me. Under this legislation, a police department that purchases one of the most popular bul-

letproof vests to protect its officers against rising crime would now be subject to environmental lawsuits.

And here's why: A bulletproof vest becomes increasingly ineffective if it is exposed to moisture. As a result, it is protected by a waterproofing PFAS chemical to keep it dry and effective against bullets.

By imposing a de facto ban—and it is a de facto ban—on all PFAS chemicals, even those that pose no risk to human health or the environment, this legislation will significantly reduce the availability of lifesaving equipment.

Manufacturers, or others in the supply chain, will seek to avoid the PFAS liabilities created by this bill under CERCLA. So police departments, rather than worrying about protecting our communities, will now have to worry about whether or not they will be subject to an environmental lawsuit.

Instead, police departments themselves will be forced to make impossible decisions; continuing to use PFAS-containing, lifesaving equipment or risk huge legal liability when the equipment is disposed of.

This bill will bring entities like police departments, and anyone and everyone who is even remotely involved with PFAS material, under the wide dragnet of litigation that they don't have the resources to fight.

As Democrats seek to defund police across the country, police departments are already strapped for cash. So under this bill, we are forcing police departments to decide whether to defend themselves against lawsuits or purchase the material they need to keep their officers safe.

That is why I introduced a simple amendment that would limit the liability of police departments, first responders, and our military from being endlessly sued if they require these materials to protect themselves.

My amendment didn't limit the EPA's ability to actually regulate these chemicals or even determine which ones are safe or unsafe. Nor did it allow police departments to dispose of these products in an unsafe way and be shielded from consequences.

It just said, if a police department or first responder follows the letter of the law in dealing with these materials, they shouldn't be threatened with endless lawsuits. But, sadly, my colleagues didn't make my amendment in order.

So while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are desperately trying to prove that they support our police officers after a year of demonizing them, the bill shows that really nothing has changed.

But there is one more chance to make this right. I will be offering my amendment as the motion to recommit for this legislation. Our police officers need to know that Congress has their back, especially now. This motion to recommit is a chance to do just that.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill and vote for my amendment to protect our police and our military and our first responders.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include the text of the amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

PFAS compounds do not naturally break down in the environment. Exposure to even small amounts of PFAS has been linked to diseases, birth defects, and developmental disorders.

These chemicals have been used in consumer products for decades and have, thus, been allowed to spread and accumulate throughout the environment, into our air, our water, and our soils.

In my own district, PFAS has been detected in multiple drinking water systems, which puts the health and safety of my constituents at risk. The same can be said for millions of people in communities across the country.

Until recently, the extent of the problem was underestimated in my home State. With expanded testing, we now know that California is one of the most impacted States in the country. A recent investigation by the State Water Resources Control Board showed PFAS contamination in almost 100 public water systems serving about 7.5 million Californians.

We need a national strategy to prevent exposure to these toxic substances. This bill sets a deadline for the EPA to take action on establishing standards, limits the introduction of new PFAS into commerce and the environment, and provides support for communities to install treatment technologies. This bill is needed both to clean up pollution now and to prevent it from getting worse in the future.

I want to thank Representative DINGELL and Representative UPTON for their leadership on H.R. 2467 and Chairman PALLONE, Chairman TONKO, for helping to move this important legislation. I also want to thank the committee staff for their work on this bill.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), a physician and member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act. This bill takes the wrong approach to dealing with these complex and complicated chemicals.

A de facto ban on all PFAS substances will do nothing but prevent secure disposal of existing chemicals and harm innovation of new, safer products.

As a physician, I have personally seen the benefits provided by these products. PFAS materials have a variety of uses in healthcare, ranging from heart valves, cardiac stents, to coatings on contact lenses.

Thanks to technology developed using PFAS materials, surgeries, such as those that are needed to repair a child's congenital heart defect, no longer require risky open-heart surgery and can simply be done through the arm.

Of course, we don't want dangerous chemicals in our water supply. But to outright ban an entire family of products is not the answer. We would not ban the entire periodic table because it includes arsenic and mercury. We need a science-grounded, risk-based approach that identifies the most harmful chemicals and treats them as such, rather than have Congress regulate the entire family as a single group.

Inclusion in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act has the potential to slow down the cleanup process of PFAS, divert resources from current higher-priority public health issues and create another unfunded mandate for critical public utilities and local governments.

Instead of interfering, it is time to let government agencies do their work. And so I urge my colleagues, join me, vote "no" on H.R. 2467.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), who chairs the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

These PFAS chemicals, synthetic, manmade chemicals, have now, according to the science, evolved into a very significant public health threat, and it is time that Congress act to protect our neighbors back home, families, communities all across America with the passage of this bill.

This is a bipartisan bill, and I want to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman DINGELL and Congressman UPTON, for leading the charge here, because what they propose and what we will vote on today will protect our communities by instituting some new oversight and regulations of these forever chemicals in PFAS, help us clean up these chemicals from our drinking water, and protect the public health.

These PFAS chemicals are not regulated in any way right now. They are often used in firefighting foam, in nonstick surfaces, stain-resistant surfaces, and food packaging. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has determined that PFAS exposure is associated with low birth weight babies, an increased rate of cancer, lower fertility rates, and developmental issues in young children and infants.

A new study out of the Yale School of Public Health recently found that

exposure increases the risk of miscarriage by 80 to 120 percent in pregnant women. The CDC also issued a disclosure regarding a potential intersection between PFAS and COVID-19.

These chemicals now have been detected in communities all across the country. This bill will help us rely on the science, provide some safeguards, make sure we are gathering the scientific data we need to keep our communities safe back home.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, most folks have never heard of PFAS. In Michigan we found out the hard way. Again.

Sadly, we know a little bit about water contamination. Think Flint, think lead. PFAS is bad, too. Really bad.

The EPA has been slow at the switch. Three years ago, I stepped off the plane coming back from D.C. for the August break, and I got a call. It was bad. It was from one of my State senators. One of my towns had been identified just a few hours earlier with having alarming PFAS parts per trillion numbers.

We had to act right away. I drove straight to the sheriff command center, prompted the immediate notification of thousands of residents. It was nearly midnight. Before they could make infant formula or coffee in the morning or even water their vegetable garden, they had to stop. They had to unplug their icemakers in their refrigerators. For months they had to line up at churches and schools to get cases of water for human consumption.

We had a bipartisan bill to require the EPA to set a minimum standard for PFOA and PFAS, which House Republicans agreed to, but we were later denied. It would have started the EPA's clock, which is why we need to act now.

We know this stuff is bad. We know this causes cancer. This bill is not perfect. It needs to see a number of constructive changes before it reaches the President's desk, but I want to thank DAN KILDEE and BRIAN FITZPATRICK, the two co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force.

I want to thank Chairman PALLONE. I also want to thank my colleague DEBBIE DINGELL for authoring this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 12½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Washington has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), a member of our committee.

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I can't believe I am about to say this, but I think what I am hearing

from the majority of my friends on the other side of the aisle, with the exception of my good friend Mr. UPTON, is that they just want a little more toxic chemicals in your water.

That simply cannot be true.

In my district on Long Island, we have long struggled with PFAS water contamination, and many communities have already incurred substantial remediation costs.

That is why I am pleased that the PFAS Action Act includes my provision to reimburse these local communities for their past expenses. Communities that could not wait for Federal action and redirected their resources to address this health threat should not be punished for doing the right thing.

This is a situation that the Federal Government has failed to address for decades. We have the opportunity to do it now.

I want to thank my good friends, Representatives DINGELL and UPTON, and the chairman of the committee for bringing this commonsense bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), a leader on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2467, but not necessarily in defense or in criticism of PFAS.

Unfortunately, this legislation puts the cart before the horse. It would establish a PFAS standard before the EPA has the information to determine the best regulatory action.

While written and passed by the Energy and Commerce Committee, this bill contains provisions within the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which I am also a member. However, T&I never considered this bill, which greatly concerns me. Our committee didn't hold one hearing or one markup on this bill or on the provisions contained in it. T&I Democrats completely ceded the committee's authority and expertise.

□ 1330

If we had held a hearing or a markup, Republicans would have pointed out that the Clean Water Act, which is squarely in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, grants ample authority to the EPA and contains a long-established process for evaluating chemicals and regulating the discharge of those substances when they pose a significant risk to water quality.

We would have noted that the EPA already has efforts under way to evaluate PFAS substances pursuant to the Clean Water Act, including managing risks from PFAS.

However, this bill short-circuits the long-established regulatory review process under the Clean Water Act and it ignores the expertise of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

H.R. 2467 imposes unrealistic deadlines on the EPA and asks the EPA to regulate before it has the necessary data to make a legally and scientifically sound regulatory plan.

Legislating in this careless fashion undermines the confidence in both the bill and the legislative process to develop it.

I urge a "no" vote on this bill, and I encourage us to continue looking at this issue.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the PFAS Action Act of 2021 because this overdue legislation will save lives.

We know that PFAS chemicals, otherwise known as forever chemicals, have been linked to harmful health effects, including increased rates of cancer.

Yet, for far too long, they have been unchecked and unregulated.

Now, these same chemicals are being discovered at toxic levels in drinking water supplies in communities that I represent and across our country.

In fact, as many as 200 million Americans are currently drinking PFAS-contaminated water, often without even knowing it.

While my home State of Massachusetts has led the way in responding to PFAS contaminations in recent years, including the groundbreaking of a new 10,000-square foot treatment plant in my district in Littleton, most States are falling further and further behind, leaving their residents at risk.

Madam Speaker, we have the ability to change that today.

Passage of the PFAS Action Act will bolster State and local initiatives like those already under way in Massachusetts.

This legislation will provide the resources and policies necessary to clean up contaminated drinking water sites, support families who have been exposed to PFAS chemicals, and take critical steps to prevent future exposures.

I am grateful to Representatives DINGELL and UPTON, as well as our chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. PALLONE, for their bipartisan work on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, not because it will hurt corporations who want to continue the unregulated use of these dangerous chemicals, but because the health and well-being of the hardworking families they represent are at stake if they don't.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), the lead Republican on the Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the PFAS Action Act.

As the ranking member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, I have participated in many hours of hearings during the previous Congress

where we explored issues involving PFAS materials and heard from witnesses spanning many perspectives on this important issue.

As legislation and regulations are advanced to address PFAS issues, it is critical that we ensure that these efforts define the chemicals of concern consistently, adequately, and properly as supported by sound science. In the current bill, however, what is ultimately classified as a PFAS material is either left open to interpretation by EPA or broadly defined. Using either approach risks subjecting potentially thousands of chemicals to unnecessary regulation or restriction.

As we have heard previously in the House Oversight and Reform Committee, and as we have heard on the floor this week during debate on various amendments, a broad definition of PFAS could subject such key products as lithium-ion batteries, semiconductors, refrigerants, and medical devices, to name just a few, to regulation and restriction. All these products provide important benefits, and some, in the case of batteries and semiconductors, have been specifically highlighted by President Biden as part of his efforts to review and reshore critical supply chains.

It is, therefore, essential that we properly define PFAS, so that implementing regulations can focus on those materials, such as PFOA and PFOS, where there is scientific consensus for regulation, while also ensuring that unnecessary regulations are not placed on key uses of PFAS.

I urge my colleagues to carefully consider the definitions and criteria that are being put forward as the basis for PFAS regulation and to take steps to ensure that these classifications are carefully tailored and supported by sound science.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this issue. And still I rise.

And I rise today because, as a Member of Congress, I believe we have a duty, a responsibility, and an obligation to act when industry is not acting, and the health of the American people is at risk.

It is time for Congress to do what it should have done, what EPA has not done, what we can do. I believe that there is no option but to vote "yes." No is not an option when it comes to the health and safety of the American people.

I will vote "yes." I will vote for the American people and their safety.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS).

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership on this legislation.

I rise in support of the PFAS Action Act, a landmark bill that will protect millions of Americans from these toxic forever chemicals.

We know PFAS persists in the environment and the human body, and it is making our constituents sick. This legislation addresses legacy contamination and its associated health effects. Importantly, this bill will also go to the source, and halt active contamination and work to hold polluters accountable.

That is exactly what my provision is designed to do. This legislation includes my bill, the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act, which addresses toxic PFAS discharges and invests in local infrastructure.

No polluter should be able to dump PFAS unchecked into our waterways and into our wastewater systems. PFAS should be handled like other toxic substances that have been regulated through the Clean Water Act.

We must also support wastewater systems to make necessary infrastructure upgrades that will stop PFAS from poisoning our environment and our water. This bill would authorize \$200 million a year for these grants.

Madam Speaker, this is a bipartisan issue, and it is an issue that literally affects every State and every district across this country.

Just yesterday I joined a round table of concerned leaders in my district whose message was crystal clear: Pass this bill and protect the health and well-being of our communities and our families.

I heard from the town manager in Bedford, New Hampshire, who spoke to me about residents receiving bottled water for the past 3 years because their wells are contaminated. Families and businesses in several neighboring communities face the same situation. How many more years are we going to let these people wait for clean water?

A constituent of mine named Lisa, from the Seacoast region of New Hampshire, has two kids who drank PFAS-laced water for a number of years when they were growing up. They faced a number of unimaginable health impacts as a result of that.

How many more households like Lisa's will there be in this particular situation if we allow more PFAS out into the environment?

Far too many Americans are drinking from contaminated systems and wells. Far too many Americans are at the mercy of industrial polluters and have brought this problem to our doorstep.

I urge passage of this bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 3 minutes remaining.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Unfortunately, this bill is not just limited to legacy contamination. It

creates a hostile environment for the manufacture and use of PFAS, present and future.

The ban in this bill is a de facto ban on 9,252 PFAS, as well as numerous lifesaving and critical products containing PFAS.

A de facto ban is a system where many suppliers of a product are allowed, but the environment is so completely hostile to its existence, that the product might as well not be made.

The aggressive, unscientific regulatory approach in this bill, coupled with its extremely limited exemptions, will create stigma and uncertainty, and that will result in increased litigation in trial courts for products containing PFAS.

If you start stacking up the negative market pressures created through:

One, increased compliance costs;

Two, limited disposal options;

Three, sidelined investments;

Four, unquantifiable and permanent liability under CERCLA;

Five, tort lawsuits aided by legislative stigma;

Six, marketplace challenges;

Seven, the inability to make or finance a safer replacement chemical or product, it is not hard to see how H.R. 2467 creates a de facto ban on 9,252 chemicals and threatens the viability of these industries and the industries that need them and the products containing them that benefit our society.

Unfortunately, this is not a new tactic. It has been done before with the war on coal under the Obama administration, and now we are seeing it with the rest of fossil fuels and any product that some decide they don't like.

The word "ban" may not appear, but by creating massive costs through regulatory barriers and mandates, uncertainty, and taxes, a de facto ban is created by the cost of doing business. The cost of doing business becomes too high and we, as Americans, become dependent upon other countries, dangerously dependent upon other countries. It jeopardizes manufacturing in our country, and then we wonder why people are not manufacturing in the United States.

It has been done on coal, it has been done on fossil fuels, and today it is being done on American manufacturers.

We can do better. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill. Let's go back, let's do better. We all want to protect clean drinking water. That is a shared goal. Let's stay focused on that goal. Vote "no" on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This comprehensive bill reflects the hard work of many of my colleagues. I want to thank some of the leaders in the House who have made this bill possible.

Representative DINGELL has led this bill for several years now, never losing

sight of the communities she represents who have been impacted by PFAS in their environment and in their water.

The bill builds on legislation from Representative SEAN PATRICK MALONEY to require health effects testing on all PFAS chemicals. This critical testing forms the basis of required decisions throughout this package.

The legislation also sets a moratorium on new PFAS until EPA has the science it needs to properly evaluate them and will ensure that all new PFAS are properly reviewed before going forward. This provision was authored and led through the committee process by Representative KUSTER and also reflects the hard work of Representative DEAN.

Another essential piece of this bill builds on bipartisan legislation from Representatives BOYLE and FITZPATRICK to set a national drinking water standard that protects public health, including the health of pregnant women, infants, and children.

The legislation also takes important steps to address air emissions of PFAS. It incorporates legislation from Representative STEVENS to address PFAS emissions under the Clean Air Act and legislation from Representatives KHANNA and LEVIN to restrict unsafe incineration of PFAS wastes, including firefighting foam.

Next, the bill includes a provision by Representative SOTO to create a voluntarily PFAS-free label for cookware, so consumers can take steps to protect themselves from exposure. I also thank Representative SLOTKIN for her work to expand that label.

The bill includes a provision by Representative FLETCHER requiring EPA to issue guidance for first responders to both minimize the use of PFAS in firefighting foam and turnout gear and also minimize their risks. That provision was improved last year with input from Representative GOLDEN. Risks to first responders are also a very serious concern, and I thank Representative FLETCHER for her work on that important issue.

Lastly, the bill incorporates two provisions related to the Clean Water Act from Representatives DELGADO and PAPPAS. Those important provisions will protect our natural resources and stem the flow of contamination into our waterways.

Madam Speaker, I include the following documents in the RECORD: A letter from the Sierra Club; a letter from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; a letter from the Coalition of NGO's; a letter from Defense Communities; a letter from the League of Conservation Voters; and an article from Environmental Health News titled: "The real story behind PFAS and Congress' effort to clean up contamination." That is an op-ed.

SIERRA CLUB,

July 15, 2021.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, On behalf of our over four million members and supporters, Sierra Club writes to express our

support of H.R. 2467 the PFAS Action Act of 2021. We ask that you vote in support of this critical package and strengthening amendments.

Communities around the United States are facing grave threats to their drinking water and health due to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). This class of chemicals is widely used to make carpets, fabrics for furniture, Teflon coatings for cookware, paper packaging for food and other everyday materials. They're even used in firefighting foam (aqueous film forming foam; AFFF) for both civilian and military purposes.

PFAS chemicals can't be broken down in an environment and effectively poison water sources. Right now, scientists estimate that more than 100 million Americans are drinking PFAS-contaminated water. This contamination is strongly linked to cancer, immune system suppression, thyroid problems, reproductive system damage and harming of children's growth and development.

The PFAS Action Act takes critical steps in ensuring our communities are protected from dangerous chemicals. There are 9 important amendments that extend important protections against PFAS chemicals. However, two stand out as critical in dealing with PFAS contamination. First, Rep. Andy Levin's Amendment #8 to prohibit incineration of PFAS-based firefighting foams. Second, Rep. Sarbanes and Fitzpatrick's Amendment #15 which would require chemical companies to provide the analytical standards that allow chemists to measure new PFAS chemicals in people and the environment.

Everyone, no matter zip code, gender or race, deserves clean drinking water and a healthy environment. We must safeguard frontline communities from the damage of PFAS. We need to stop emitting PFAS into the environment and protect those populations most susceptible to chemical contamination—like women, children and military service members. The PFAS Action Act is an important step in that process.

Sierra Club urges you to support the PFAS Action Act.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BRUNE,
Executive Director, Sierra Club.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE
OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2021.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and Committee on Pro-Life Activities, we write in support of the PFAS Action Act of 2021 (H.R. 2467). This bipartisan legislation aims to reduce human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals.

Per-fluoroalkyl and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a diverse class of compounds containing thousands of individual chemicals. Useful for non-stick and water-repellent properties, certain PFAS have been integrated into numerous household products. PFAS have also been employed in firefighting foam across the United States.

PFAS are resistant to degradation and bioaccumulate in the environment and the human body. Prolonged exposure to these chemicals can cause cancer, thyroid problems, birth defects, and reproductive, developmental, and immune system disruptions. Of particular concern is a growing body of research that indicates pregnant and nursing mothers, and their children, are especially affected. Such exposure occurs through polluted drinking water, food, soil, dust and the use of consumer products manufactured using PFAS. The widespread utilization of these "forever chemicals" has resulted in significant environmental contamination.

The USCCB has consistently promoted integral human development, where technology and human ingenuity are directed towards the common good. Human and environmental health concerns are interconnected, and we must not forget that "human life is itself a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement" (Laudato Si', no. 5). The PFAS Action Act of 2021 both upholds the dignity of human life and preserves ecological health. It regulates PFAS, enacts drinking water standards, and designates contaminated sites as eligible for Superfund cleanup.

Access to safe, potable water is an indispensable human right and government leaders have a moral responsibility to safeguard society from poisonous chemical contaminations. Addressing U.S. Congress in 2015, Pope Francis declared that "you are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good." We pray for your efforts to protect the life and health of mothers, the unborn, all of society, and God's creation.

Sincerely yours,

MOST REVEREND PAUL S.
COAKLEY,
Archbishop of Oklahoma City, Chair,
Committee on Domestic Justice, and Human Development,
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F.
NAUMANN,
Archbishop of Kansas City, Chair, Committee on Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

JULY 19, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STEVE SCALISE,
Minority Whip,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, MINORITY WHIP SCALISE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned non-governmental organizations write today to urge you to vote YES on H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

Toxic PFAS chemicals have now been confirmed in the water of nearly 2800 communities, including over 300 military installations, and studies have linked PFAS to serious health problems, including cancer. H.R. 2467 will build on the progress made in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 by restricting industrial releases of PFAS into our air and water, setting a drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS in tap water, and by kick-starting the process of cleaning up legacy PFAS contamination by designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the federal Superfund law.

The science is clear: PFAS have been linked to serious health problems through decades of animal, worker, and human studies. Unfortunately, EPA has failed to take steps to restrict air and water releases, reduce PFAS in our tap water, or clean up the

nation's most contaminated sites. H.R. 2467 will set clear deadlines requiring EPA to do just that. Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances, as proposed by H.R. 2467, will not ban PFAS—but will instead ensure that the most contaminated sites are finally cleaned up.

We urge you to vote YES on H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

Sincerely,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners, Center for Environmental Health, Clean Cape Fear, Clean Water Action, Commonwealth Biomonitoring Resource Center, Community Action Works, Consumer Reports, Defend Our Health, Ecology Center, Environment America, Environment North Carolina, Environmental Working Group, Green Science Policy Institute, Green CAPE.

Healthy Babies Bright Futures, League of Conservation Voters, Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Moms for a Nontoxic New York, Natural Resources Defense Council, NC Child, NC Conservation Network, Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, Sierra Club, Southern Environmental Law Center, Toxic-Free Future, U.S. PIRG, Union of Concerned Scientists, Vermont Conservation Voters, Zero Waste Washington.

PROTECT OUR DEFENSE COMMUNITIES FROM
PFAS POLLUTION—DESIGNATE PFOA AND
PFOS AS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

JULY 20, 2021.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Our communities host many of the hundreds of military installations that are now contaminated with the toxic "forever chemicals" known as PFAS. While Congress has acted to end the use of firefighting foam made with PFAS, Congress has not yet taken steps to ensure that legacy PFAS pollution is cleaned up.

To protect our defense communities from toxic pollution, we urge you to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Liability, and Compensation Act. Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA will ensure that the Defense Department treats PFAS pollution at military installations as a priority.

Some members of Congress have argued that designating PFOA and PFOS as "hazardous substances" under CERCLA will ban the use of these two chemicals from medical devices, semiconductors, lithium batteries and even surgical masks. This is not correct. First, PFOA and PFOS are no longer used in commerce. Second, designation of a chemical as a hazardous substance does not result in a ban of the chemical. Nearly 80 percent of the chemicals designated as hazardous substances are still used in commerce.

CERCLA regulates the cleanup of chemicals, not the use of chemicals. In particular, designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA will ensure that they are a priority for clean up at military installations.

PFAS has been confirmed in the groundwater at more than 300 military installations where firefighting foams made with PFAS were used, including installations in our communities. We urge you to protect our communities from these toxic forever chemicals by voting to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances.

Sincerely,

ANDREA AMICO,
Testing for Pease,
Portsmouth, New
Hampshire.

ANTHONY SPANIOLA,
Need Our Water
(NOW), Oscoda,
Michigan.

ARNIE LERICHE,
Wurtsmith Restoration
Advisory Board,
Oscoda, Michigan.

ART SCHAAP,
Tucumcari Cheese,
Clovis, New Mexico.

CATHY WUSTERBARTH,
Need Our Water
(NOW), Oscoda,
Michigan.

CHERYL CAILL,
SC Idle No More,
SCIAC, Myrtle
Beach, South Caro-
lina.

DEBORAH BROWN,
Newburgh Clean
Water Project, New-
burgh, New York.

EDWARD LAWSON, JR.,
Co-Chair Stewart Air
National Guard,
Restoration Advisory
Board, Newburgh,
New York.

HOPE GROSSE,
Buxmont Coalition for
Safe Water, War-
minster, Pennsyl-
vania.

JENNIFER VAUGHAN,
Brock, Texas.

JEROME M ENSMINGER,
CDC Camp Lejeune
Community Assist-
ance, Panel, Eliza-
bethtown, North
Carolina.

JIM HOLMES,
Satellite Beach, Flor-
ida.

JOANNE STANTON,
Buxmont Coalition for
Safe Water, War-
minster, Pennsyl-
vania.

KEVIN FERRARA,
AFS021 LLC,
Woolrich, Pennsyl-
vania.

KRISTEN MELLO,
Westfield Residents
Advocating For,
Themselves
(WRAFT), Westfield,
Massachusetts.

LAURA OLAH,
Citizens for Safe Water
Around Badger,
Merrimac, Wis-
consin.

LISA CELLINI,
Maple Glen, Pennsyl-
vania.

MARK A. FAVORS, RN,
Fountain Valley Clean
Water Coalition,
Colorado Springs,
Colorado.

MARK D SANCHEZ-POTTER,
Food and Water
Watch, Newburgh,
New York.

PAT ELDER,
Military Poisons, St.
Mary's City, Mary-
land.

SCOTT CRUMBAUGH,
Pure Aqua Tech,
Alma, Michigan.

STAN MCCOY,
Cedar Creek, New Mex-
ico.

STEL BAILEY,
Fight 4 Zero, Brevard
County, Florida.

MITCH FREITAS,

FMT, Clovis, New
Mexico.

LAURENE ALLEN,
Merrimack Citizens for
Clean Water,
Merrimack, New
Hampshire.

SHAINA KASPER,
Community Action
Works Campaigns,
Montpelier,
Vermont.

MADISON MCCOY,
Albuquerque, New
Mexico.

SUZANNE SCHAAP,
Hereford, Texas.

PAMELA MILLER,
Alaska Community Ac-
tion on Toxics, An-
chorage, Alaska.

LCV,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2021.

Re: Support H.R. 2467, a critical step in pro-
tecting our health from toxic chemicals.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, The League of Con-
servation Voters (LCV) works to turn envi-
ronmental values into national priorities.
Each year, LCV publishes the National Envi-
ronmental Scorecard, which details the vot-
ing records of members of Congress on envi-
ronmental legislation. The Scorecard is the
nationally accepted yardstick used to rate
members of Congress on environmental, pub-
lic health, and energy issues and is distrib-
uted to LCV members, concerned voters, and
the media.

LCV urges you to vote YES on H.R. 2467,
the "PFAS Action Act of 2021," which would
take important steps in addressing the grow-
ing national PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl
substances) crisis threatening the health of
millions of people across the country.

PFAS are a class of chemicals used in
many everyday consumer products and in-
dustrial applications to make water and
stain repellent coatings, but communities
continue to discover that their drinking
water, food, soil, and surroundings have been
contaminated with PFAS. Also called "for-
ever chemicals" in recognition of their per-
sistence in the environment and our bodies,
PFAS have been linked to numerous health
problems like certain cancers, thyroid dis-
ease, neurological development issues, weak-
ened immune systems, and more. The federal
government has been slow to take the ac-
tions necessary to protect our communities,
especially communities of color who bear a
disproportionate impact from this lack of re-
sponse.

H.R. 2467 will take critical steps forward
that are needed to reduce PFAS use, clean
them up, and hold polluters accountable for
the damage to our health and the environ-
ment. The bill would require the Environ-
mental Protection Agency (EPA) to set a
drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS
within two years, designate PFOA and PFOS
as hazardous air pollutants, limit industrial
discharges of PFAS into waterways, and pro-
vide funding for water treatment. Addition-
ally, it would provide consumers with knowl-
edge of products containing PFAS by adding
PFAS to the EPA's Safer Choice Program.
H.R. 2467 also would designate PFOA and
PFOS as hazardous substances and make a
determination on other PFAS within five
years—key to holding polluters accountable
and ensuring that our nation's most con-
taminated sites are finally cleaned up.

Again, we urge you to SUPPORT H.R. 2467,
which will take critical steps in tackling the
PFAS crisis, as well as all pro-environment
amendments. We will strongly consider in-

cluding votes on this legislation in the 2021
Scorecard. If you need more information,
please contact a member of our government
relations team.

Sincerely,

GENE KARPINSKI,
President.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES—THE
REAL STORY BEHIND PFAS AND CONGRESS'
EFFORT TO CLEAN UP CONTAMINATION: OP-
ED BY JIM JONES

Former EPA official Jim Jones sets the
record straight on 'the forever chemical' as
lawmakers take up the PFAS Action Act

Jim Jones
When the U.S. House of Representatives
takes up the bipartisan PFAS Action Act
this week, some members of Congress may
contend that the bill would ban some uses of
PFAS.

In particular, some members of Congress
may argue that designating PFOA and PFOS
as "hazardous substances" under the Com-
prehensive Environmental Response, Liabil-
ity, and Compensation Act, or CERCLA, will
ban the use of these two chemicals from
medical devices, semiconductors, lithium
batteries and even surgical masks.

This is not correct.

PFAS & PFOS NO LONGER USED IN COMMERCE

First, PFOA and PFOS are no longer used
in commerce.

As an Assistant Administrator for the
EPA, I was involved in the implementation
of a 2006 stewardship agreement with the
chemical industry to phase out the use of
these two members of this class of
fluorinated chemicals. Simply put, as a re-
sult of this agreement, PFOA and PFOS are
no longer used in these products or take
make these products.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE

Second, designation of a chemical as a haz-
ardous substance does not result in a ban of
the chemical.

A quick review of EPA records reveals that
nearly 80 percent of the chemicals desig-
nated as hazardous substances by Congress
since the law was passed in 1980 are still used
in commerce. That's because CERCLA does
not force manufacturers to stop using chemi-
cals. Sulfuric acid, one of the most widely
used chemicals in commerce, has been desig-
nated as a hazardous substance for more
than 40 years. Many other chemicals desig-
nated as hazardous substances are used in
many products, including medical devices.

CERCLA regulates the cleanup of chemi-
cals, not the use of chemicals. A different
statute, the Toxic Substances Control Act,
or TSCA, governs the use of chemicals.

CRITICAL STEP TO CLEAN UP PFAS & PFOA

Simply put, no one—not Congress, not the
states, not the EPA—is trying to ban PFOA
and PFOS by statute.

So, if Congress is not trying to ban PFOA
and PFOS, why then does the bipartisan
PFAS Action Act designate them as haz-
ardous substances?

Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous
substances is a critical step in efforts to ac-
celerate the clean-up process at contami-
nated sites, especially Department of De-
fense installations.

FIREFIGHTING FOAM CONTAMINATION

PFAS has been confirmed in the ground-
water at more than 300 military installations
where firefighting foams made with PFAS
were used. Congress directed the DOD to end
the use of these PFAS-based foams in 2020,
but efforts to clean up legacy contamination
at these bases has not yet been undertaken.

Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous
substances will ensure that the DOD treats
these contaminants as a priority for cleanup.

That's not only reason Congress should enact the PFAS Action Act. While EPA is now treating PFAS as a priority, that has not always been the case. To guard against delay, the PFAS Action Act sets deadlines for EPA to finalize a national drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS and to place limits on discharges of PFAS into the air and water. The bill also sets a deadline for EPA to decide whether or not to list other PFAS as hazardous substances.

PFAS: TIME TO TAKE ACTION

A lot is at stake. PFAS has been detected in thousands of drinking water systems and has been linked to serious health problems. No wonder chemical companies and public health groups agree that it is time to take action to address PFAS pollution. Hopefully, members of Congress will agree as well.

PFAS: WHO TO CALL

Editors note: The PFAS Action Act of 2021, by Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., is set to be debated by the U.S. House of Representatives sometime this week.

To set the record straight and voice concern that the latest science is not being considered as lawmakers debate effort to clean up our environment, contact Republican Reps. Cathy McMorris Rogers and Buddy Carter.

Jim Jones was the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention for the Environmental Protection Agency from 2011 to 2017.

Views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of Environmental Health Sciences, publisher of EHN.org and DailyClimate.org.

□ 1345

Madam Speaker, let me just say in closing, the PFAS Action Act is a strong and balanced bipartisan bill that will make a real difference for countless communities across the country.

You have heard today that this bill may not be that necessary because the administration is already doing things, but I just point out that the administration has sent a Statement of Administration Policy saying why the President would sign this bill. So obviously, he feels that it is necessary.

And this is a quote from that Statement of Administration Policy that says, "The administration led by the EPA is working to collaborate on cross-cutting strategies, advanced new design, develop coordinated policies, regulations and communications; and continue engagement with affected States, Tribes, communities stakeholders, and H.R. 2467 would further enhance those efforts."

Madam Speaker, like the administration, I am proud to support this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Each further amendment printed in part B of House Report 117-95 not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 535, shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided

and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time after debate for the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of House Report 117-95, not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. TONKO OF NEW YORK

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 535, I rise to offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, printed in part B of House Report 117-95, offered by Mr. TONKO of New York:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE OF MICHIGAN

Page 30, strike lines 13 through 17 and insert the following:

(5) Information on treatment options, including information relating to water treatment systems certified to the relevant NSF/ANSI American National Standard for drinking water treatment units by a third-party certification body accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. LEGER FERNANDEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Page 6, line 4, insert "and water used for agricultural purposes" after "water".

Page 31, line 20, insert "and water used for agricultural purposes" after "water".

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 18. SCHOOL DRINKING WATER TESTING AND FILTRATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Part F of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1466. SCHOOL PFAS TESTING AND FILTRATION GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a program to make grants to eligible entities for—

"(1) testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water at schools that is conducted by an entity approved by the Administrator or the applicable State to conduct the testing;

"(2) installation, maintenance, and repair of water filtration systems effective for reducing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water at schools that contains a level of any perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance that exceeds—

"(A) an applicable maximum contaminant level established by the Administrator under section 1412; or

"(B) an applicable standard established by the applicable State that is more stringent than the level described in subparagraph (A); or

"(3) safe disposal of spent water filtration equipment used to reduce perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water at schools.

"(b) GUIDANCE; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall—

"(1) expend grant funds in accordance with any applicable State regulation or guidance regarding the reduction of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water at schools that is not less stringent than any applicable guidance issued by the Administrator;

"(2) make publicly available, including, to the maximum extent practicable, on the website of the eligible entity, a copy of the results of any testing carried out with grant funds received under this section; and

"(3) notify parent, teacher, and employee organizations of the availability of the results described in paragraph (2).

"(c) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section may use not more than 5 percent of grant funds to pay the administrative costs of carrying out the activities for which the grant was made.

"(d) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term 'eligible entity' means—

"(1) a local educational agency; or

"(2) a State agency that administers a statewide program to test for, remediate, or filter perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water.

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until expended."

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ OF NEW YORK

Page 31, after line 2, insert the following:

(c) ACCESS.—The Administrator shall ensure information on the website established under subsection (a) is presented in a manner that provides meaningful access to such information for individuals with limited English proficiency.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. ROSS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 20, beginning on line 2, strike "in use by the community water system at the time of application is" and insert "that was in use by the community water system on the date of enactment of this section was".

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. SAN NICOLAS OF GUAM

Page 32, beginning on line 13, strike "Of the amounts made available under this subsection, the Administrator may use funds" and insert "To the extent that sufficient applications are received, the Administrator shall use not less than 2 percent of the amounts made available under this subsection".

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. SARBANES OF MARYLAND

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 18. ANALYTICAL REFERENCE STANDARDS FOR PFAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall require each covered entity to submit to the Administrator an analytical reference standard for each perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom manufactured by the covered entity after the date that is 10 years prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) USES.—The Administrator may—

(1) use an analytical reference standard submitted under this section only for—

(A) the development of information, protocols, and methodologies, which may be carried out by an entity determined appropriate by the Administrator; and

(B) activities relating to the implementation or enforcement of Federal requirements; and

(2) provide an analytical reference standard submitted under this section to a State, to be used only for—

(A) the development of information, protocols, and methodologies, which may be carried out by an entity determined appropriate by the State; and

(B) activities relating to the implementation or enforcement of State requirements.

(c) PROHIBITION.—No person receiving an analytical reference standard submitted under this section may use or transfer the analytical reference standard for a commercial purpose.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means a manufacturer of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

(2) MANUFACTURE; STATE.—The terms “manufacture” and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2602).

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 21, strike lines 9 through 13 and insert “than \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 30, after line 25, insert the following:

(8) Information about the health risks associated with consuming water contaminated with PFAS as well as recommendations for individuals who believe they may have consumed such PFAS-contaminated water.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 25, beginning on line 21, strike “pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, or rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or a stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act” and insert “covered product”.

Page 26, beginning on line 2, strike “pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating” and insert “covered product”.

Page 26, beginning on line 7, strike “pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act” and insert “covered product”.

Page 26, beginning on line 14, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PRODUCT.—The term “covered product” means—

(A) a pot,

(B) a pan;

(C) a cooking utensil;

(D) carpet;

(E) a rug;

(F) clothing;

(G) upholstered furniture;

(H) a stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

(I) food packaging material;

(J) an umbrella;

(K) luggage; or

(L) a cleaning product.

(2) PFAS.—The term “PFAS” means a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 535, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this en bloc of 10 amendments. As was done in the 116th Congress, the PFAS Action Act was subject to a subcommittee markup, a full committee markup, and debate and amendment on the House floor.

During these processes in the 116th and 117th Congresses, there has been an effort to continue to strengthen the proposal at each and every stage. The ten amendments included in this en bloc, which includes several bipartisan amendments, would build upon this past work and make further improvements to the underlying bill.

Several of the amendments help protect Americans from PFAS in their drinking water, especially those relying upon private wells, which would not be subject to the national drinking water standard required to be developed by this bill.

We know communicating the risks of PFAS is challenging: What are safe levels? What is a reliable testing technique? And what do you do if your water is contaminated?

These amendments would help ensure people have better, clearer, and more accessible information on this and other issues. This en bloc also includes amendments that would increase grant funding to community water systems and ensure all communities dealing with PFAS contamination can access these funds, including insular territories. And it would establish a new grant program to support PFAS testing and filtration at schools.

We know the cost of PFAS remediation can be significant. Ensuring these costs do not fall squarely upon the households that rely upon these water systems, who are not responsible for the contaminations, should be a high priority of this effort. More Federal funding can help in this regard.

Finally, the en bloc would expand the PFAS-free labeling program to cover food package material, luggage, and cleaning products. This will allow Americans to make certain that they have more informed choices on the products they choose to purchase. Overall, these are good improvements to the bill, and I do not believe they should be controversial.

Madam Speaker, I encourage Members to support the en bloc, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), who has been outspoken on this issue.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

I thank my colleague, Representative FITZPATRICK, for joining in this bipartisan proposal. PFAS chemicals, as we have been hearing today, are harmful, manmade forever chemicals that are persistent, bio-accumulative, and toxic.

These chemicals, which threaten more than 100 million Americans, pose serious risks to human health, including cancer, immune disorders, and reproductive system maladies.

The PFAS Action Act will take critical steps to protect all Americans from PFAS chemicals by helping clean up contaminated sites under the Superfund program, limiting the exposure of PFAS chemicals, and establishing a health-protective drinking water standard that limits the amount of PFAS in our water systems.

My amendment would strengthen the PFAS Action Act by expanding EPA's ability to use the best-available science to address PFAS risks by requiring manufacturers to provide reference standards for all PFAS chemicals. This effort will help reduce PFAS pollution and keep our families safe.

My amendment will provide the EPA with critical data about PFAS chemicals and help the agency better identify these toxic substances in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and the underlying bill and vote in favor of this important legislation.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB), who, along with Mrs. DINGELL, has really brought great focus to this issue in committee.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I still remember how I felt when I learned that one of the worst PFAS sites in the entire country was discovered right in my backyard in my district at the Marathon petroleum refinery. Shock, horror, and a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach just happened instantly.

I called Congresswoman DINGELL, because that site borders our districts. And it is a community that continues to struggle with air quality and clean water. That ZIP Code, where Marathon Oil Refinery is now, that is the most polluted ZIP Code in all of the State of Michigan. So we wonder why the forever chemical was found right there and how it is impacting people's public health.

We are finding in Michigan, as folks know, where we lead in the country in

PFAS testing, if you start looking for these toxic forever chemicals, you are going to find them.

Madam Speaker, we have an urgent crisis in front of us that requires swift and decisive action. So it is great news that the House is now considering passing PFAS Action Act of 2021 today.

The bill will require EPA to take urgent PFAS action by requiring site cleanups, identifying health risks, and developing a drinking water standard to keep our community safe. We cannot wait another day to start taking strong action to protect our residents from forever chemicals.

As a Member of Congress, I was shocked—I think many of my residents were shocked—that we weren't protected from PFAS in the Clean Air Act. Today, we, at least, get closer to changing that. Again, our residents deserve to live without being poisoned.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), who has great concern for this issue.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, PFAS chemicals are life-threatening. They are forever chemicals and need to be cleaned up. We will act today to regulate these chemicals and protect public health.

Highland Dairy is a family-owned operation that has served the eastern part of my district for four generations. In 2018, Highland learned that PFAS from the nearby Air Force base leaked into the shared aquifer that watered the grass which fed the cows. The PFAS contamination poisoned the cows and the dairy could not sell the milk or the cows. Highland is on the brink of disaster merely by being a neighbor to the Air Force base. We cannot allow PFAS to work itself into our food system.

Madam Speaker, my amendment requires the EPA to consider the risk PFAS poses to water used for agricultural purposes, like that at Highland.

Madam Speaker, the EPA's work must be inclusive of farmers, rural America, and the food we eat. I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment and pass this bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I stand, again, in strong support of the en bloc amendment and, certainly, the measure to which we are amending.

Basically, we have here an opportunity to address ills that we see across America, contaminants, forever dangerous elements that cause all sorts of diseases and destruction, and it is important for us to move forward, I think, to take responsibility and make certain that these forever chemicals that don't break down, that cause cancer and other diseases, are addressed.

We move forward with the opportunity here, assigning the great re-

sponsibilities to EPA so that we have a strong outcome. I think the amendment makes the bill even stronger. I have seen situations in my given region of Upstate New York where communities have been impacted.

Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support the amendment and the bill at hand, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we all believe that we must have clean water. Unfortunately, this is not a thoughtful or scientific approach.

H.R. 2467 is opposed by a broad diverse, collection of interests that are concerned about its aggressive, over-the-top, unforgiving, and simultaneous mandates, obligations, and expenses.

These include: The United States Conference of Mayors; National League of Cities; National Association of Counties; American Water Works Association; Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; National Association of Water Companies; National Association of Clean Water Agencies; National Rural Water Association; Association of California Water Agencies; The Water Environment Federation; American Chemistry Council; American Coatings Association; American Forest and Paper Association; American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers; American Petroleum Institute; Flexible Packaging Association; National Association of Chemical Distributors; National Association for Surface Finishing; National Council of Textile Organizations; National Electrical Manufacturers Association; National Association of Surface Finishing; National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers; Plastics Industry Association; United States Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I include these letters in the RECORD.

JULY 21, 2021.

Re Opposition to H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of organizations representing the nation's municipal governments and drinking water and wastewater systems, we write in opposition to H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021. While we support taking action to reduce the prevalence of PFAS in the environment, the legislation would run counter to the important "polluter pays" principle that guides Superfund site cleanups under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and would step back from the transparent, science-based process of regulating drinking water contaminants under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and clean water operations under the Clean Water Act (CWA). We urge you to vote against this legislation in its current form.

H.R. 2467 would require EPA to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA within one year, and to make a determination on designating all remaining PFAS within five years. These hazardous substance designations are intended to make sure polluters are held responsible for paying for the cleanup of contaminated Superfund sites, which we support. But the bill as cur-

rently structured would also mean that municipal drinking water and wastewater utility ratepayers could face staggering financial liability to clean up PFAS that was legally disposed of following the water treatment process. We believe water and wastewater utilities, when acting in accordance with all applicable laws, should be provided an exemption to protect the utilities and water customers from bearing the costs of cleanup.

In the case of drinking water systems, if PFAS is removed from source water in order to comply with a drinking water regulatory standard, the utility then becomes the possessor of filtration media that contain those PFAS. The utility must then dispose of these PFAS-laden filters, typically by sending them to a hazardous waste landfill in accordance with applicable law. However, should that landfill ever become a Superfund site, then the water utility could be treated as a PFAS polluter—and be responsible for a portion of the cleanup costs—forcing local ratepayers to cover the cleanup bill after they already paid to remove the contaminants from their source water.

Wastewater utilities would face similar liability through no fault of their own because they receive PFAS chemicals through the raw influent that arrives at the treatment plant. This heterogeneous influent can come from domestic, industrial, and commercial sources and may contain PFAS constituents ranging from trace to higher concentrations, depending on the nature of the dischargers to the sewer system. In any case, the influent is not generated by the utility, but the utility is responsible for treating it under scientific and regulatory authorities provided for under the CWA. Because wastewater utilities cannot halt treating continual industrial or domestic wastewater inputs which likely contain PFAS in some concentration, they should be protected through a targeted CERCLA liability exemption.

It is particularly disappointing that H.R. 2467 would offer a CERCLA liability shield to airports that release PFAS into the environment through their use of firefighting foam. It defies logic that the legislation fails to extend that same liability protection to water and wastewater systems that have no choice but to dispose of PFAS found in water supplies, and whose ratepayers would be ultimately responsible for all of the costs associated with a Superfund site cleanup. As passive receivers of PFAS, water and wastewater utilities should be afforded the same liability protections that the legislation would award airports in order to keep CERCLA liability focused on the corporations that created the pollution in the first place. Our organizations have repeatedly asked Congress for CERCLA liability shields in the legislation similar to those for airports but have been rebuffed.

Additionally, many of our organizations oppose provisions in H.R. 2467 that would amend SDWA by requiring EPA to promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for PFOA and PFOS within two years, establishing a unique and expedited drinking water contaminant regulatory process for other chemicals in the PFAS family, and eliminating EPA's discretion on whether to issue drinking water health advisories related to PFAS. In sum, these changes would undermine the development of transparent, science-based drinking water standards, and would place undue cost burdens on our communities and ratepayers while leading to premature regulatory decisions that lack public review and scientific validity.

While we share the goal of addressing PFAS contamination and holding accountable those entities that are responsible releasing it into the environment, H.R. 2467

would instead assign environmental cleanup liability to innocent water systems and their customers. We have no choice but to oppose the legislation and encourage you to vote against it in its current form.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies, Association of California Water Agencies, California Association of Sanitation Agencies, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, National Water Resources Association, Water Environment Federation, American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies, National Rural Water Association, The U.S. Conference of Mayors.

JUNE 22, 2021.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,
*Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and
Commerce, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE AND RANKING MEMBER MCMORRIS RODGERS, On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities and counties, we write to express our concerns with the Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2021 (AQUA Act, H.R. 3291) and the PFAS Action Act of 2021 (H.R. 2467). Our organizations strongly support provisions in H.R. 3291 that would reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and authorize grants to support lead pipe replacement and PFAS treatment. However, the legislation also includes provisions that would require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for PFAS and other chemicals and regulate PFAS under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). These provisions could have unintended consequences for local governments and place an undue cost burden on communities and our residents.

In general, our organizations support provisions in the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which require that drinking water standards be based on sound science, public health protection and occurrence of contaminants in drinking water supplies at levels of public health concern to reduce risk while balancing costs. Congress should not circumvent this process in any way for select contaminants.

Moreover, CERCLA ensures that hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment are cleaned up by holding responsible parties financially liable. Local governments, including municipal airports and fire departments, which were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals, and drinking water and wastewater utilities and municipal landfills, which serve as receivers of PFAS chemicals and did not cause or contribute to contamination, should not be held liable for PFAS contamination or cleanup costs.

The nation is just emerging from a deadly pandemic that has left local governments and many of our residents and small businesses reeling financially. Our communities need financial assistance to address our drinking water infrastructure challenges, but we can not absorb costly unfunded mandates that will become an additional burden to local budgets and our residents. While we acknowledge the public health risks associated with PFAS chemicals and urge Congress and the Administration to examine PFAS contamination holistically and to take com-

prehensive action to address the problem, the federal government should avoid passing costs onto local governments and ratepayers for PFAS treatment and cleanup.

We agree with the sentiment outlined in the comment letter from the American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies and the National Rural Water Association to the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 15, which raises similar concerns.

Specifically, we offer the following comments on the AQUA Act and the PFAS Action Act of 2021:

Local governments, water utilities and their ratepayers should not be held financially liable under CERCLA for PFAS contamination. CERCLA was established to make polluters and manufacturers of these pollutants pay for the contamination they caused. At a minimum, the legislation should extend a similar CERCLA liability exemption to local governments that is offered to airports.

We are opposed to Congress modifying EPA's impartial contaminant regulatory process on an ad-hoc basis to establish a unique and expedited regulatory process for specific chemicals. The legislation would require EPA to rush to finalize drinking water regulations for PFOA, PFOS, and other chemicals in the PFAS family within two years of the bill's enactment. We believe that an expedited time frame would come at the expense of public transparency and scientific rigor and would lead to inequitable regulations that force the lowest-income water ratepayers to shoulder a greater proportion of the new compliance costs that are passed on by their water systems.

Repealing section 1412(b)(6) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, a key provision that allows EPA the opportunity to ensure that the public health benefits of a drinking water regulation are reasonably balanced with the compliance costs that water system ratepayers will incur, will directly shift the burden to pay for these upgrades to local governments. Under current law, if EPA determines that the benefits of a proposed maximum contaminant level (MCL) do not justify the costs of compliance, section 1412(b)(6) gives EPA the option, following notice and opportunity for public comment, to promulgate an MCL "that maximizes health risk reduction benefits at a cost that is justified by the benefits."

The PFAS infrastructure grant program as proposed in H.R. 2467 includes the limitation of eligible treatment technologies to those that are certified to remove "all detectable amounts" of PFAS from water supplies is admirable. We are concerned about this requirement, however, since no technology is available today that can reliably meet this standard.

As it pertains to the replacement of lead service lines, there is language included in the grant authorization that would require "any recipient of funds . . . shall offer to replace any privately owned portion of the lead service line at no cost to the private owner." This language is potentially problematic for several reasons. First, as the water associations pointed out in their letter, the language could be interpreted to require any water system that receives any amount of program funds to permanently pay for all future private-side lead service line replacement costs, even after this federal grant assistance has been exhausted. Second, we are also concerned that authorization does not mean full appropriations at the levels necessary to replace all private residences' lead service lines. Including this language could potentially hamper local government long-term efforts to develop a program to replace

all lead service lines. Finally, we are concerned that potential new EPA testing and replacement rules will trigger lead pipe replacement without the necessary Congressional funds. For these reasons, we agree with the water associations' recommendation—that the legislation should specify that "none of the funds made available" through this program may be spent in a manner inconsistent with conditions specified by Congress.

Thank you for considering the local government perspective as you move this legislation forward. We look forward to working with you to address our nation's drinking water needs. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our staff: Judy Sheahan (USCM) Carolyn Berndt (NLC) or Adam Pugh (NACo).

Sincerely,

TOM COCHRAN,
*CEO & Executive Di-
rector, The U.S.
Conference of May-
ors.*

CLARENCE E. ANTHONY,
*CEO & Executive Di-
rector, National
League of Cities.*

MATTHEW D. CHASE,
*CEO & Executive Di-
rector, National As-
sociation of Coun-
ties.*

JULY 2, 2021.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We, the undersigned organizations, strongly oppose H.R. 2467, the "PFAS Action Act." Our organizations are committed to ensuring the safety of our employees and the communities where we live and operate. This legislation would delay and complicate contamination remediation issues.

Product safety provides the foundation of consumer trust, and our members devote significant resources to achieve this effort. Every member of the value chain has an important part to play to ensure the products consumers use are safe and sustainable. We remain committed to advancing effective, science-based solutions to PFAS challenges.

This spring, we sent a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan regarding possible designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As stated then, CERCLA is not an effective policy tool to fulfill the goal of accelerating cleanup in communities.

Moreover, EPA has existing authority to meet the intent of this legislation and should be provided the time, resources, and flexibility to make its determination regarding how best to address PFAS concerns. This approach should be made with guidance from the new PFAS Council review process, consistent with sound science and accepted principles for protecting public health and the environment.

Finally, a bill of H.R. 2467's magnitude and complexity, including the proposed sector-based wastewater effluent guidelines, deserves the opportunity to be examined at length in a committee setting. Many major stakeholders, including EPA, the Department of Defense, other federal agencies and states have all taken significant actions to address PFAS since the last time we had a venue to discuss within a committee.

We oppose the PFAS Action Act and ask that the House of Representatives do so as

well. We stand ready to assist you throughout the legislative process and engage on a better way to move forward on this issue.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Petroleum Institute, Flexible Packaging Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers, National Association for Surface Finishing, Plastics Industry Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

JUNE 15, 2021.

Hon. PAUL TONKO,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAVID MCKINLEY,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TONKO AND RANKING MEMBER MCKINLEY: We, the undersigned organizations, strongly oppose H.R. 2467, the "PFAS Action Act." Our organizations are committed to ensuring the safety of our employees and the communities where we live and operate. Product safety provides the foundation of consumer trust, and our members devote significant resources to achieve this effort. Every member of the value chain has an important part to play to ensure the products consumers use are safe and sustainable.

With these goals in mind, earlier this spring we sent a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan expressing our concerns regarding possible designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As stated then, CERCLA is not an effective policy tool to fulfill the goal of accelerating cleanup in communities and may delay cleanups already in process.

EPA has existing authority to meet the intent of this legislation and should be provided the time, resources, and flexibility to make its determination whether and how to address PFAS. This approach should be made under the new PFAS Council, consistent with sound science, and to protect human health and the environment.

Finally, a bill of H.R. 2467's magnitude and importance deserves a hearing before going to markup. The subcommittee has not held a hearing on PFAS for approximately two years. Since that time, EPA, the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, and the states have all taken significant actions to address PFAS challenges. The subcommittee should hear from those government agencies, the business community, and other key stakeholders before members decide on the proper scope and substance of any legislation. Moreover, the committee has gained many new members who deserve an opportunity to hear from such stakeholders before making policy decisions.

We oppose the PFAS Action Act and ask the members of your subcommittee to do so as well. We stand ready to assist you throughout the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, Airlines for America, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest and Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Petroleum Institute, Flexible Packaging Association, National Cattleman's Beef Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Association

for Surface Finishing, National Council of Textile Organizations, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, National Oilseed Processors Association, National Mining Association, Plastics Industry Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

□ 1400

The amendments en bloc is a collection of 10 individual amendments. In fact, some parts of it are indicative of the underlying bill. It is provisions you don't need a bill to accomplish because EPA is already doing them.

Other parts of this amendment highlight, for me, why the overall bill should be opposed, and many do oppose it. Let me give you some examples.

The amendments en bloc contains a provision that would create a website at EPA containing household well water testing. Ironically, EPA already has that website. For those interested, it is www.epa.gov/privatewells.

Among its existing resources are items called for in these amendments: PFAS testing, health effects discussion, and third-party certification recommendations. Any other issues could be solved by updating this website.

The amendments en bloc also doubles down on certain consumer product problems the underlying bill creates and then kicks it up a notch. It adds luggage, umbrellas, and food packaging materials to section 10's expansion of a program never designed for articles and would force significant changes and administrative effort.

It also requires every manufacturer or importer of a PFAS chemical in the last 10 years to send a sample of it to EPA and to each State. Notwithstanding that this could make EPA subject to hazardous waste storage requirements under section 9, EPA is already compelling comprehensive toxicity testing from the same people for the same ultimate purpose under section 3 of the bill.

The amendments en bloc authorizes funding for things that appear to be covered already. It increases the funding authorization in section 7 for grants by 600 percent. That is a hike before we even know how well the program works or if the money is needed.

It also provides reimbursement to communities that installed equipment to remove PFAS from drinking water when those upgrades were made without expectation of Federal money.

The amendments en bloc creates, similar to lead, a Federal grant program for PFAS testing at schools, drinking water filters, and disposal efforts. But there is nothing to suggest PFAS enters drinking water like lead, and the used filters are not protected from Superfund liability if they are safely disposed.

I wish we would take the time to make the real reforms that would improve this bill—amendments like the one offered by Mr. BILIRAKIS to protect the bill from harming semiconductor production in the United States of America. PFAS are essential to etching and cleaning semiconductors, and

we don't want this bill to prevent the formation of a domestic supply chain in the United States of America.

I am also thinking about bipartisan amendments offered by Dr. BUCSHON and Mr. SCHRADER to protect PFAS used in FDA-approved drugs and devices. Pediatric and adult heart patients have PFAS to thank for stents and heart valves that keep them alive today.

Mr. CARTER, too, had an amendment to save chlorine production from extinction in this country. There are only three ways to make it: mercury, which is being phased out; asbestos, which EPA has considered banning; and PFAS. Coming out of a pandemic, killing chlorine should be the last thing we are trying to do.

Mr. CRENSHAW also had an amendment to protect the use of PFAS in protective gear. Crime is surging in our cities. Now more than ever, our police personnel and military should not be put in danger because the chemicals necessary to keep them safe are a casualty of this bill.

These amendments were not made in order. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, score of H.R. 2467 was indeterminate, stating its administration would cost the Federal Government \$280 million, but it is impossible to know how it impacts Federal spending.

No matter how well-intended or well-meaning this bill may be, its impacts are broad, unknown, and depend on things Congress hasn't yet established and must think through.

The amendments en bloc does not improve this bill, and I oppose it and urge others to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 535, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 195, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 215]

YEAS—226

Adams	Bowman	Castor (FL)
Aguilar	Boyle, Brendan	Castro (TX)
Allred	F.	Chu
Auchincloss	Brown	Cicilline
Axne	Brownley	Clark (MA)
Barragán	Bush	Clarke (NY)
Bass	Bustos	Cleaver
Beatty	Butterfield	Clyburn
Bera	Carbajal	Cohen
Beyer	Cárdenas	Connolly
Bishop (GA)	Carson	Cooper
Blumenauer	Carter (LA)	Correa
Blunt Rochester	Cartwright	Costa
Bonamici	Case	Courtney
Bourdeaux	Casten	Craig

Crist	Kuster	Raskin
Crow	Lamb	Rice (NY)
Cuellar	Langevin	Ross
Davids (KS)	Larsen (WA)	Roybal-Allard
Davis, Danny K.	Larson (CT)	Ruiz
Dean	Lawrence	Ruppersberger
DeFazio	Lawson (FL)	Rush
DeGette	Lee (CA)	Ryan
DeLauro	Lee (NV)	Sánchez
DelBene	Leger Fernandez	Sarbanes
Delgado	Levin (CA)	Scanlon
Demings	Levin (MI)	Schakowsky
DeSaulnier	Lieu	Schiff
Deutch	Lofgren	Schneider
Dingell	Lowenthal	Schrader
Doggett	Luria	Schrier
Escobar	Lynch	Scott (VA)
Eshoo	Malinowski	Scott, David
Espallat	Maloney	Seiwell
Evans	Carolyn B.	Sherman
Fitzpatrick	Maloney, Sean	Sherrill
Fletcher	Manning	Sires
Foster	Matsui	Slotkin
Frankel, Lois	McBath	Smith (NJ)
Gallego	McCollum	Smith (WA)
Garamendi	McEachin	Soto
Garcia (IL)	McGovern	Spanberger
Garcia (TX)	McKinley	Speier
Golden	McNerney	Stansbury
Gomez	Meeks	Stanton
Gonzalez,	Meijer	Stevens
Vicente	Meng	Strickland
Gottheimer	Mfume	Suozzi
Green, Al (TX)	Moore (WI)	Swalwell
Grijalva	Morelle	Takano
Harder (CA)	Moulton	Thompson (CA)
Hayes	Mrvan	Thompson (MS)
Higgins (NY)	Murphy (FL)	Titus
Himes	Nadler	Tlaib
Horsford	Napolitano	Tonko
Houlahan	Neal	Torres (CA)
Hoyer	Neguse	Torres (NY)
Huffman	Newman	Trahan
Jackson Lee	Norcross	Trone
Jacobs (CA)	O'Halleran	Underwood
Jayapal	Ocasio-Cortez	Upton
Jeffries	Omar	Van Drew
Johnson (GA)	Pallone	Vargas
Johnson (TX)	Panetta	Veasey
Jones	Pappas	Vela
Kahele	Pascarell	Velázquez
Kaptur	Payne	Wasserman
Katko	Perlmutter	Schultz
Keating	Peters	Waters
Kelly (IL)	Phillips	Watson Coleman
Khanna	Pingree	Welch
Kildee	Pocan	Wexton
Kilmer	Porter	Wild
Kim (NJ)	Posey	Williams (GA)
Kind	Pressley	Wilson (FL)
Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)	Yarmuth
Krishnamoorthi	Quigley	

NAYS—195

Aderholt	Cole	Gooden (TX)
Allen	Comer	
Amodei	Crawford	Granger
Arrington	Crenshaw	Graves (LA)
Babin	Curtis	Graves (MO)
Bacon	Davidson	Green (TN)
Baird	Davis, Rodney	Greene (GA)
Balderson	DesJarlais	Griffith
Banks	Diaz-Balart	Grothman
Barr	Donalds	Guthrie
Bentz	Duncan	Hagedorn
Bergman	Dunn	Harris
Bice (OK)	Emmer	Harshbarger
Biggs	Estes	Hartzler
Bilirakis	Fallon	Hern
Bishop (NC)	Feenstra	Herrell
Boebert	Ferguson	Herrera Beutler
Bost	Fischbach	Hice (GA)
Brady	Fitzgerald	Hill
Brooks	Fleischmann	Hinson
Buchanan	Hollingsworth	
Buck	Fox	Hudson
Bucshon	Franklin, C.	Huizenga
Budd	Scott	Issa
Burchett	Fulcher	Jackson
Burgess	Gaetz	Jacobs (NY)
Calvert	Gallagher	Johnson (LA)
Cammack	Garbarino	Johnson (OH)
Carl	Garcia (CA)	Johnson (SD)
Carter (TX)	Gibbs	Jordan
Cawthorn	Jimenez	Joyce (OH)
Chabot	Gohmert	Joyce (PA)
Cline	Gonzales, Tony	Keller
Cloud	Gonzalez (OH)	Kelly (MS)
Clyde	Good (VA)	Kelly (PA)

Kim (CA)	Mullin	Smucker
Kinzinger	Murphy (NC)	Spartz
Kustoff	Nehls	Staubert
LaHood	Norman	Steel
LaMalfa	Nunes	Stefanik
Lamborn	Obermole	Steil
Latta	Owens	Steube
LaTurner	Palazzo	Stewart
Lesko	Palmer	Taylor
Letlow	Pence	Tenney
Long	Perry	Thompson (PA)
Loudermilk	Pfluger	Tiffany
Luetkemeyer	Reed	Timmons
Mace	Reschenthaler	Turner
Malliotakis	Rice (SC)	Valadao
Mann	Rodgers (WA)	Van Dwyne
Massie	Rogers (AL)	Wagner
Mast	Rogers (KY)	Walberg
McCarthy	Rose	Walorski
McCaul	Rosendale	Waltz
McClain	Rouzer	Weber (TX)
McClintock	Roy	Webster (FL)
McHenry	Rutherford	Wenstrup
Meuser	Salazar	Westerman
Miller (IL)	Scalise	Williams (TX)
Miller (WV)	Schweikert	Wilson (SC)
Miller-Meeks	Scott, Austin	Wittman
Mooleenaar	Sessions	Womack
Mooney	Simpson	Zeldin
Moore (AL)	Smith (MO)	
Moore (UT)	Smith (NE)	

NOT VOTING—9

Armstrong	Doyle, Michael	Lucas
Carter (GA)	F.	Newhouse
Cheney	Guest	Young
	Higgins (LA)	

□ 1434

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Rogers (KY)
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Fleischmann)
Buchanan	Jones (Williams)	Ruiz (Correa)
(LaHood)	(GA)	Rush
DeSaulnier	Kirkpatrick	(Underwood)
(Matsui)	(Stanton)	Salazar
Fulcher	Lawson (FL)	(Cammack)
(Simpson)	(Evans)	Stewart (Curtis)
Garcia (IL)	McEachin	Titus (Connolly)
(Garcia (TX))	(Wexton)	Van Drew
Granger	Meng (Jeffries)	(Reschenthaler)
(Calvert)	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	(Correa)	(Hayes)
(Stanton)	Payne (Pallone)	

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Crenshaw moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 2467, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Mr. CRENSHAW is as follows:

In section 2—

(1) redesignate subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) insert after subsection (c) the following:

(d) PROTECTIVE GEAR.—No person shall be liable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabil-

ity Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) for the costs of responding to, or damages resulting from, a release to the environment of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance designated as a hazardous substance under section 102(a) of such Act that is related to the manufacture of individual protective equipment, including body armor, that is designed to protect members of the United States military, law enforcement personnel, or first responders (including Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and first responders) from—

(1) threats posed by ballistic, edged, chemical, biological, or other weaponry; or

(2) hazards posed by extreme weather.

Page 9, line 14, strike “For a period” and insert “Except as provided in paragraph (3), for a period”.

Page 10, after line 2, insert the following:

“(3) PROTECTIVE GEAR.—This subsection shall not apply with respect to a notice described in paragraph (1) that is related to the manufacture of individual protective equipment, including body armor, that is designed to protect members of the United States military, law enforcement personnel, or first responders (including Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and first responders) from threats posed by ballistic, edged, chemical, biological, or other weaponry, or hazards posed by extreme weather.”.

Section 8(b) is amended by adding at the end the following: “In revising such list, the Administrator shall exclude from any category or subcategory so listed a source whose emissions of such a substance are related to the manufacture of individual protective equipment, including body armor, that is designed to protect members of the United States military, law enforcement personnel, or first responders (including Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and first responders) from threats posed by ballistic, edged, chemical, biological, or other weaponry, or hazards posed by extreme weather.”.

Page 25, after line 13, insert the following:

“(3) EXEMPTION.—Paragraph (1)(C) shall not apply with respect to individual protective equipment, including body armor, that—

“(A) contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(B) is designed to protect members of the United States military, law enforcement personnel, or first responders (including Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and first responders) from—

“(i) threats posed by ballistic, edged, chemical, biological, or other weaponry; or

“(ii) hazards posed by extreme weather.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 218, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 216]

YEAS—204

Aderholt	Amodei	Babin
Allen	Arrington	Bacon

Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar

Granger
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin

NAYS—218

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten

Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell

Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal

Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Oberholte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tennet
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahale
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Neal
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks

Armstrong
Carter (GA)
Cheney

Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Mouelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider

NOT VOTING—8

Doyle, Michael
F.
Graves (LA)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Higgins (LA)

□ 1458

Ms. JAYAPAL, Messrs. O'HALLERAN, and KILDEE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I was delayed in a meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 214.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei
(Balderson)
Buchanan
(LaHood)
DeSaulnier
(Matsui)
Fulcher
(Simpson)
Garcia (IL)
(Garcia (TX))
Granger
(Calvert)
Grijalva
(Stanton)

Johnson (TX)
(Jeffries)
Jones (Williams
(GA))
Kirkpatrick
(Stanton)
Lawson (FL)
(Evans)
McEachin
(Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano
(Correa)
Payne (Pallone)

Rogers (KY)
(Fleischmann)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush
(Underwood)
Salazar
(Cammack)
Stewart (Curtis)
Titus (Connolly)
Van Drew
(Reschenthaler)
Wilson (FL)
(Hayes)
Young
(Malliotakis)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 183, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 217]
YEAS—241

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer

Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahale
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar

NAYS—183

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman

Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett

Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Lieu
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozi
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

Comer	Issa	Palmer
Crawford	Jackson	Pence
Crenshaw	Johnson (LA)	Perry
Curtis	Johnson (OH)	Pfluger
Davidson	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Davis, Rodney	Jordan	Reschenthaler
DesJarlais	Joyce (OH)	Rice (SC)
Diaz-Balart	Joyce (PA)	Rodgers (WA)
Donalds	Keller	Rogers (AL)
Duncan	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (KY)
Dunn	Kelly (PA)	Rose
Emmer	Kim (CA)	Rosendale
Estes	Kinzinger	Roy
Fallon	Kustoff	Rutherford
Feenstra	LaHood	Salazar
Ferguson	LaMalfa	Scalise
Fischbach	Lamborn	Schweikert
Fitzgerald	Latta	Scott, Austin
Fleischmann	LaTurner	Sessions
Foxx	Lesko	Simpson
Franklin, C.	Letlow	Smith (MO)
Scott	Loudermilk	Smith (NE)
Fulcher	Lucas	Smucker
Garcia (CA)	Luetkemeyer	Spartz
Gibbs	Malliotakis	Stauber
Gimenez	Mann	Steel
Gohmert	Massie	Stefanik
Gonzales, Tony	McCarthy	Steil
Gonzalez (OH)	McCaul	Steube
Gooden (TX)	McClain	Stewart
Gosar	McClintock	Taylor
Granger	McHenry	Thompson (PA)
Graves (LA)	Meuser	Tiffany
Graves (MO)	Miller (IL)	Timmons
Green (TN)	Miller (WV)	Valadao
Greene (GA)	Miller-Meeks	Van Dyne
Griffith	Moolenaar	Wagner
Grothman	Mooney	Walberg
Guest	Moore (AL)	Walorski
Guthrie	Moore (UT)	Waltz
Hagedorn	Mullin	Weber (TX)
Harris	Murphy (NC)	Webster (FL)
Harshbarger	Nehls	Wenstrup
Hartzler	Newhouse	Westerman
Hern	Norman	Williams (TX)
Herrell	Nunes	Wilson (SC)
Hice (GA)	Obornolte	Wittman
Hill	Owens	Womack
Hinson	Palazzo	
Hollingsworth		

NOT VOTING—6

Armstrong	Doyle, Michael	Higgins (LA)
Brady	F.	
Carter (GA)	Good (VA)	

□ 1519

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 217, "yea" on rollcall No. 216, and "nay" on rollcall No. 215.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Rogers (KY)
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Fleischmann)
Buchanan	Jones (Williams)	Ruiz (Correa)
(LaHood)	(GA))	Rush
DeSaulnier	Kirkpatrick	(Underwood)
(Matsui)	(Stanton)	Salazar
Fulcher	Lawson (FL)	(Cammack)
(Simpson)	(Evans)	Stewart (Curtis)
Garcia (IL)	McEachin	Titus (Connolly)
(Garcia (TX))	(Wexton)	Van Drew
Granger	Meng (Jeffries)	(Reschenthaler)
(Calvert)	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	(Correa)	(Hayes)
(Stanton)	Payne (Pallone)	

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 2467, PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2021

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of H.R. 2467, the Clerk be au-

thorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, spelling, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House, including striking lines 13 through 23 on page 20.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAM HOWELL-BEACH TO GREATER TOLEDO

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of Pam Howell-Beach to the greater Toledo community.

During her tenure with the Toledo Community Foundation, Pam guided the organization to a strong financial future, increasing its assets by over \$80 million.

Later, as executive director of the Stranahan Foundation, Pam oversaw grant distributions of more than \$71 million to organizations working in education, health, and the arts.

Pam's leadership in the nonprofit world was as wide as it was appreciated and as big as her heart. From working with the Zonta Club of Toledo, Philanthropy Ohio, Ability Center of Greater Toledo, and Mercy Health Partners, to the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, and Susan G. Komen Foundation, her impassioned service touched the lives of thousands upon thousands of Toledoans.

As Pam confronts a challenging health situation, I want to convey, on behalf of all Toledoans, how grateful we are for her work, her life, her dedication and her love for community. We are all the better as a result of her lifelong commitment to others.

Madam Speaker, I thank Pam, and may God bless her today and always.

CONGRESS MUST KEEP THE BIPARTISAN SPIRIT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, throughout this Congress, the House Agriculture Committee has had countless discussions on ways that we can empower our farm families and build a robust rural economy.

Earlier this month, we made good on our word. I am proud to be able to work with all members of our committee and support the Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act, which provides significant investments into the deployment and development of broadband to rural America.

This legislation reflects many of our shared priorities and shared work. And in many ways, it is similar to the bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier this year.

I thank all of the members of the Agriculture Committee for their work and enthusiasm to meet the needs of rural Americans. I know this issue is so personal for each of us and the constituents we represent.

The House Agriculture Committee is often considered the most bipartisan committee in the House. This markup bill is proof that we can still reach an agreement under extraordinary times, and I hope we can keep this bipartisan spirit as infrastructure talks continue.

200 DAYS OF DEMOCRATS WORKING TO BUILD BACK BETTER

(Ms. JACOBS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, today marks 200 days of this Congress; 200 days of House Democrats working to build back better.

Madam Speaker, our constituents want us to meet this moment.

That is why we have passed historic legislation to strengthen our democracy, ensure equal pay, guarantee the rights of LGBTQ-plus Americans, advance racial justice, prioritize gun safety and more.

We started this Congress by passing the American Rescue Plan, a historic investment in workers and families that included the expanded and improved child tax credit, one of the most important antipoverty measures of this generation.

Last week, I met with parents in Chula Vista who had tears in their eyes talking about what a difference the new child tax credit would make for their families.

They talked about not only being able to pay for rent and childcare and school supplies, but also for the first time being able to start saving for their kids to go to college.

Madam Speaker, that is worth celebrating, and it is worth protecting.

Let's build on the progress we have made, make permanent the expanded child tax credit, and make sure American families truly can build back better.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, the right to life is one of the founding principles of our Nation. Every human being, born or unborn, is entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Yet today, we see this right under attack as the Biden administration continues their war on the unborn by seeking to remove the Hyde amendment, a

longstanding pro-life protection that has saved 2.5 million lives from abortion since 1976.

Not too long ago, President Joe Biden stated: "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them." But his proposed budget fails to include the Hyde amendment, making it clear that President Biden does not continue to value the life of the unborn.

This is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. I, like many Tennesseans, believe taxpayer dollars should never be used to fund abortions.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MANNING). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

□ 1530

DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Madam Speaker, I rise to join you in marking 200 days since the start of the 117th Congress, and a productive 200 days it has been. Our majority in the House has risen to this challenge, delivering lifelines to millions of Americans, putting shots in arms and saving countless lives, and sustaining thousands of businesses, and helping our State and local governments keep our communities going.

We built on that momentum with legislation to establish paycheck fairness and universal background checks on gun sales, build greater justice into our policing and our economy, stop voter disenfranchisement, and restoring the principle of one person, one vote, and protecting Americans from the devastating effects of PFAS.

Just in the past several weeks, millions of families started receiving the improved child tax credit expected to lift one-half of America's poorest children out of poverty.

Madam Speaker, before I close, let me recognize one other milestone; The 1 year anniversary of the passing of my dear friend, and a hero and a friend to many, Congressman John Lewis.

I hope that he smiles down upon us favorably for this work, much of it building on a legacy he carried on his mighty shoulders throughout his life.

Brother John, we do miss you. Even as we work in your mighty shadow, may we always be guided by your light.

LIBERTY AND FREEDOM FOR CUBANS

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I want to express my full support for the brave Cubans who are demanding freedom from their tyrannical communist government.

For over 60 years, the regime in Cuba has run the country into the ground. It doesn't recognize the basic human rights of its citizens, and Cuban people don't have access to food, economic opportunities, or COVID-19 vaccines.

The Cuban people are now taking to the streets to fight for individual liberty and freedom. As authoritarians do, the regime has arrested hundreds of demonstrators and cut off their communication with the outside world.

Madam Speaker, a communist government will do whatever it takes to keep the Cuban people under its thumb. The Cuban Government has a lot in common with the Chinese Communist Party. Both will stop at nothing to hold on to power and have no regard for the rights of the people they govern.

The Cuban government wants to silence its citizens' demands for freedom, just as the Communist Chinese Party silences those in Hong Kong and Xinjiang who simply want to be free.

Cubans, and Cuban Americans especially, know communism does not work. It only brings poverty and oppression. It is our privilege as Americans to live in a country that values freedom, the Lord, and we must support those brave Cubans who want the same in our own backyard only 90 miles off the coast of the Florida.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. HERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our most vulnerable Americans; the unborn. They do not have a voice. It is up to us to be their champion and fight for their right to life.

I am deeply concerned by the actions of the majority and the current occupants of the White House. They are actively destroying decades of progress and protections for the unborn, which is why it is essential to pass the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request

cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. NORMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, here we go again. The majority Democratic party wants to kill our children through abortion.

I rise today to discuss the importance of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act. For over two decades, lawmakers have passed the Hyde amendment in a bipartisan fashion to ensure Americans aren't forced to fund abortion on demand with their hard-earned tax dollars.

We have had a strong majority of Americans—Democrats and Republicans alike in the past have agreed to this. Folks, it is a sad day in America, as a father and a grandfather, to have this embarrassing example of the killing of our children. Unborn children are no less alive than I am. All life is a gift that begins at conception, and develops rapidly before birth. To expect Americans to subsidize these inhumane killings is a complete disgrace. That is why I have always fought for the sanctity of life, and I will continue to fight.

I ask for the passage of H.R. 18 so the ban on Federal funding for abortions is not only permanent, but Government-wide.

GREEN NEW DEAL FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, this afternoon, we are focused on the Green New Deal. And I want to be very clear about why we need a Green New Deal. Our fossil fuel-driven economy is making us sick and literally killing us. But with historic investments in green infrastructure and the care economy, we can do the opposite. We can repair the damage done and give every person what they need to flourish.

In the Pacific Northwest, we just saw a brutal heat wave that took the lives of 116 people in Oregon, 112 people in Washington, and hundreds more in British Columbia.

We saw catastrophic floods across Europe that killed nearly 200 people, and record-shattering rains that caused deaths in India and China. We are living with wildfires that destroy communities and suffocate us with smoke. Africa is being battered by drought, and Siberia is in flames. We literally saw the ocean on fire.

We now live in a world in which extreme weather driven by climate change is killing 5 million people per year. And in parts of my district, you are three times more likely to die from asthma than anywhere else in the country. We need to be crystal clear about the fact that our economic system created this emergency, while our political system subsidizes and protects the fossil fuel industry. That has to change now.

The Green New Deal provides the framework we need to rebuild our economy, society, and democracy from the ground up. The Green New Deal recognizes that climate change, public health, systemic racism, and economic inequality are all deeply connected. And as you will hear tonight, it gives us a road map for tackling these crises together in a holistic manner.

As a lifelong educator, I see the perfect place to kickstart this process, our K–12 public schools.

Think about it, there is no single institution that touches the lives of more people. We are talking about 50 million young people, plus parents, teachers, staff, workers, and neighbors. Our schools are the heartbeat of our communities, and they must become the epicenter of transformative climate change.

For decades, we have allowed these precious places to be neglected, particularly in redlined parts of the country. We are leaving Black and Brown students and low-income students behind. We over-test the academic ability of our children, but we do not support and engage them as human beings.

And on a physical level, our schools have fallen into a state of disrepair. In my 20 years as a teacher and principal, I saw this every single day. We have schools with no running hot water or drinking fountains that do not work. Schools where the drinking fountains that do work are poisoning our children with lead.

We have schools that are infested with asbestos, mold, and rodents, and that lack proper ventilation. So every day our children face a whole spectrum of urgent health harms. And even as young people march and organize relentlessly for climate action, schools are failing to protect them from climate impacts, like extreme heat. Outdated, inefficient HVAC systems are contributing to carbon pollution and burdening schools with \$8 billion in annual energy costs.

Last week, I introduced a bill called the Green New Deal for Public Schools. This is a \$1.43 trillion investment over 10 years designed to fundamentally transform our public education system

for the 21st century. It will create and support more than 1 million green jobs every year, and it centers the most precious resource in any healthy democracy, our children.

With this legislation, we are going to upgrade and retrofit every single public school in the country, beginning in the poorest and most vulnerable districts. Every school will become a safe, healthy, accessible, and zero-carbon center of the community.

We will remove toxic materials, electrify school facilities, and make them energy-efficient, comfortable, and disaster-proof. We will install solar panels and batteries so that every school generates and controls its own renewable energy. We will create community gardens and green spaces, and offer healthy food options to nourish our children, and so much more.

These investments will be game-changing for schools in a variety of ways. They could see their energy bills roughly cut in half and reinvest the money that they save in the mental and behavioral health resources that our children and families need.

In fact, this bill provides comprehensive funding for healing the trauma of our communities. It will allow schools to hire hundreds of thousands more educators, mental health professionals, school counselors, and other support staff, especially from the local community. It also provides significant resources for school districts to form strong community partnerships and develop curricula that are responsive to unique local needs.

The legislation tackles school inequality at the regional level by quadrupling Title I funding. And it greatly increases IDEA funding for students with disabilities. This is about care; caring for ourselves, each other, our families, our communities, and the planet. That is what the Green New Deal is all about.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my other colleagues who will highlight the many other ways the Green New Deal framework addresses our Nation's urgent needs.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus for bringing us together today to highlight the importance of the Green New Deal.

Madam Speaker, climate change is one of the single most pressing threats facing this country and the global community, and our most vulnerable communities are bearing the brunt of the consequences. That is why today, as chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, I held a hearing on President Biden's Justice40 Initiative.

During this hearing, we heard from experts about the need to swiftly and effectively implement this initiative to

ensure that the communities hardest hit by pollution, poverty, and public health risks receive a fair share of our Nation's climate and infrastructure investments.

□ 1545

As chair of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, I am committed to ensuring that the administration and all Federal agencies have the tools they need to implement the Justice40 Initiative. This is crucial to ensuring that our climate investments advance racial and economic justice.

Beyond the Justice40 Initiative, we need to prioritize policy solutions here in Congress that really focus on climate justice. For New York City, that means investing in a green future for public housing and for our public schools.

This past Earth Day, I reintroduced the Public Housing Solar Equity Act, which would guarantee that any solar energy generated on public housing land benefits the residents of those developments first.

Looking beyond solar energy, all public housing repairs and modernization projects should be green, which is exactly what the Green New Deal for Public Housing does. This bill will provide funding to electrify all buildings, add solar panels, and secure renewable energy sources for all public housing energy needs. In short, it will make Federal housing cleaner, safer, and greener.

Housing is a human right that no New Yorker, no American, should go without. As we work to make sure everyone has access to the clean affordable housing they need and deserve, let's expand our goals to make these communities green, too.

For the health of our residents and for our environment, we cannot afford to do anything less.

For the health of our students, we need a Green New Deal for Public Schools, a transformative and unprecedented investment that will not only make our schools greener but also expand services for our students. My colleague, JAMAAL BOWMAN, is a former educator and has authored this important bill, of which I am a cosponsor.

We are in a state of emergency. The West is burning; cities are flooding; and extreme weather events are becoming all too common. We need to act now, and we need to act boldly.

For the health and safety of all Americans, for environmental and social justice, let's make a Green New Deal. We can't afford to do anything less.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) for focusing on education and our environment and putting both of them together creatively with the Green New Deal for Public Schools.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ), who is the original Green New Deal champion in

Congress and who has done so much in collaboration with social movements to inject this vision into the consciousness of America. Her Green New Deal for Public Housing was a major inspiration for my schools legislation.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, it is such an honor to be here just over 2 years after we introduced the original Green New Deal resolution, which has now inspired a great deal of similar resolutions and Green New Deal resolutions adopted and introduced into municipalities and States across the country.

Not only have similar resolutions been introduced, but we also have seen inspiration for other forms of Green New Deal legislation, like the Green New Deal for Public Housing, the Green New Deal for Public Schools, and beyond.

But I think one thing that is very important for us to discuss is a very urgent matter, which is the infrastructure package that is right here before Congress that is being negotiated by both the House and the Senate.

While I certainly wish sometimes that our legislation was informed primarily by the legislators that are here writing this legislation, by communities that are impacted by this legislation, it goes without saying that there is a great deal of dark money involved in the fight on climate change, and that dark money is intended for us to not act in this situation.

We have lobbyists from companies like ExxonMobil bragging about their role in shaping our Federal legislation and curtailing our ambitions and in fighting against key provisions to draw down our carbon emissions.

Whenever I see something like this, whenever I see how dark money and lobbyists act as a wedge and a cudgel between elected officials and public servants and the people that we are supposed to represent, not only do I think it is heartbreaking, but it is very much tragic.

There is a key issue that we have here in acting on climate, and the big part of that issue is something that we call kind of a principal-agent problem where the people in charge of making decisions are simply not aligned and not incentivized to make the right ones because they are not feeling the impact of it.

I get concerned when we have conversations that the politics of the day get involved and intercede, and they complicate the policy for a generation. It is so critically important because I can't help but imagine that so many of the people that are in charge of blocking action on climate will not see the world that they are leaving to generations to come.

We have a moral responsibility to leave this world better than we found it. This is not about theory anymore. This is not about challenging the science anymore.

In New York City just yesterday, people woke up having a harder time

breathing and having a harder time seeing the horizon because of the smoke from the Bootleg fires out in Oregon coming out to our city.

Wildfires will come and impact all of us. Floods and waters will come to impact all of us. But they will not impact all of us equally. The most vulnerable communities will be left behind, and we can stop it.

It doesn't have to be this way. Not only can we stop it, and not only can we draw down our emissions, but we can create millions of jobs doing so—millions of good union jobs.

We can create a civilian climate corps. We can transition to renewable energy. We can build infrastructure that all people can enjoy that is not just attuned to the wealthy. We can restore our land. We can live in harmony with an economy where we can care for one another instead of extracting off of each other.

We can build this world, and this world is close. It is so close. It is so close. That is why we see dark money mobilizing the way that it is right now, because they know that we can win.

Hopefully, in this package, we will continue to win. But this fight does not stop now. It does not stop with this infrastructure package. It will not stop, frankly, throughout the course of our lives because we have a responsibility to leave this world a better place for ourselves and our children.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BOWMAN for yielding, and I fully appreciate an opportunity to be in partnership with a fellow teacher for the cause of climate change.

Climate change is infrastructure. Our buildings, roads, and transportation are directly impacted by the impending climate crisis.

In this 1 year, we have seen our oceans on fire; a pipeline broke in the Gulf of Mexico; our bridges are crumbling; our buildings are collapsing; wildfires and heat waves have been paired with rolling blackouts in my district.

Unfortunately, my constituents and I have experienced this for decades without much progress, but we cannot continue to accept this as a reality, a continuing reality.

In addition to losing power in my district, some of the worst air quality in the country exists in my district. Despite California leading the Nation in investing in renewable energy, we still are not doing enough.

As co-chair of the Congressional Energy Storage Caucus, I know how critical it is for us to invest in renewable microgrids that are powered by solar and wind energy and backed by battery energy storage. Congress must provide municipalities, businesses, and residents with the ability to purchase and build their own energy grids that are

resilient to our frequent natural disasters.

We have the technology to catch up to the modern industrial world. We cannot afford not to use this technology. We must invest.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to continue calling attention to the survival of our planet and our future generations, the well-being of our communities, and the critical importance of passing legislation across the board that reflects our values, which are embodied in the Green New Deal.

The science is clear. We must urgently address climate change now. We must address our greenhouse gas footprint and the causes of climate change now. We must mitigate the impacts of climate change now. And we must support and center and empower and invest in our communities now.

That is what the Green New Deal is all about, building a world that is more just, more equitable, and more climate-resilient for future generations, for our children, for our parents, and for everyone across our communities.

To do so, we have to invest in our communities, critical infrastructure, and all the things that will make it possible for our communities to thrive. The time is now to be decisive, to be brave in our policymaking, to be bold in our investments, and to lean into the science.

We must do so now in the budget reconciliation and infrastructure packages that this body is working to pass right now.

This is especially critical for my home State of New Mexico, where we are already experiencing the impacts of extreme drought, catastrophic fires, heat waves, and an uncertain future, and where our communities are already struggling daily to make a living. Our families are struggling to put food on the table and struggling to support people across our community.

It is absolutely critical that we support and center our communities in this conversation and that we invest in the resilient infrastructure that will make it possible for us to live resiliently: our electric grid, broadband infrastructure, drinking water, irrigation infrastructure, and green infrastructure, and to lean into our clean energy future.

We must also invest in the infrastructure of our communities, our care economy, because that is the infrastructure of our economy and the well-being of our people, our schools, and our families.

□ 1600

We must do all of this through the lens of social, racial, and economic justice, investing in good paying jobs, lifting up the voices of and listening to the people in our communities and ensuring that their livelihoods and well-

being are at the center of these conversations.

That is why we need bold action now in the budget, in reconciliation, and in the infrastructure package to ensure that we are investing in things that are not only shovel-ready but shovel worthy and worthy of our communities and their future.

The time for action is now. We need climate action now, and I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues here in the House and in the Senate to ensure that we are making good on our commitment to our future.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BOWMAN for reserving the time on the floor of the House of Representatives so that we can speak the truth about what too many families and too many people—mostly poor people—have to endure, not only in America but around the world.

I was born and raised in the northeast San Fernando Valley, and I am very, very proud to say, in the Senate I have a colleague who grew up in Pacoima just like I did. His parents were immigrants of Mexico, and so were mine. We went to the same elementary school and the same high school, but yet at the same time we ended up being on the city council together for some years, he as a council president and I as a new member.

He said to me: Tony, what committee do you want to chair?

I said: I want to chair the committee that oversees the airport, the ports and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

At that time the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power was the largest water and power district in America.

Why did I want to be on those committees?

Because those three entities are spewing more into our atmosphere than any other organizations in Los Angeles. It gave me the opportunity to live my values, to be able to grow up in a poor community, yes, in the hood, in the northeast San Fernando Valley, on that side of town where there are more dumpsites in that part of L.A. County—a county of 10 million people—but they have concentrated more dumpsites in my backyard than any other place in that county.

For ALEX PADILLA, our families, and me, we had to endure that for generations. But here Alex is, a city council member, the president of the council, choosing to put me as the chairman of that committee. And while I was on that committee, I forced the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to finally clean up their act.

Believe it or not, the progressive Los Angeles Department of Water and Power belongs to the city of Los Angeles, the people of Los Angeles. We were fooled into believing that we are a progressive community and that we would

not be spewing out dirty fossil fuels to create the electricity that we depend on every day. But we did, Madam Speaker.

Approximately 60 percent of all of the energy that was being produced for our city and for our community was coming from fossil fuels. Under the presidency of President ALEX PADILLA—who is now our United States Senator from California—he gave me the mantle of being the chairman of that committee, we forced the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to cut their emissions in half, to literally divest themselves of dirty coal plants, and to finally clean up our act.

I am very, very proud to say that as the first council member to represent that community to be born and raised in Pacoima, I was the first council member to tell a company that owned a private dumpsite when they wanted to expand it again and again and again, I was the first council member to say: No, you are not.

We denied them their expansion. That was the first time it had ever happened.

Again, Madam Speaker, for far too long we were being represented by people who didn't realize or understand what it is like to grow up in a community where environmental injustice prevails and proliferates. We suffer from asthma rates that other communities don't suffer. Our children do. Our families do. We suffer from groundwater that is more contaminated than any other place in America.

We finally brought the grants from Washington, from city hall, and from Sacramento, our State capital, to clean up our act and to clean up our groundwater.

Those are the kinds of things that we are doing in Congress. Those are the kinds of things that the Green New Deal has brought to light where before only certain people experienced it and only certain people cared.

Now, today, we are talking about something that I am very proud of. I am very proud to be one of the original cosponsors of the Green New Deal in this Congress, but equally proud, with my colleague Congressman BOWMAN, to be an original cosponsor of the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act. These are the kinds of investments that we need to make as Congress.

Equally important, we need to make sure that we continue to remind every single person that we are in this together. As go our communities, as goes our country, and as goes the environment, so does the planet. Even though some billionaires are flying up into the sky and getting into outer space, this is our planet, Madam Speaker. We cannot escape it.

Why try to escape it?

Why not just look in the mirror and see what we all can do about it?

That is the responsible thing to do. That is something that we can and should be proud of.

So I stand here today to encourage every single one of us to help clean up our act and to, once again, thank my colleague, Congressman BOWMAN, for inviting me and the rest of us to speak the truth on this floor today about how important it is that we have a Green New Deal for all.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH), to whom I want to wish a very happy birthday today.

Ms. BUSH is another powerful Green New Deal champion who has introduced a fantastic Green New Deal For Cities bill. I also had the pleasure of working with Ms. BUSH on our public power resolution.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today because the Green New Deal cannot wait, and my brother, Representative BOWMAN, understands that. I thank him for pushing this, and I thank him for speaking up and speaking out. It is not an easy place to speak out from. Especially as Black Americans in this country, it is not usually one of the things that people think that the Black community will speak out about, but this is our work to speak out about it to make sure that our communities are made whole.

Yes, today is my 45th birthday. Birthdays are both a time of celebration and a time of reflection.

Today, there are 11 more 90-degree days per year in St. Louis than the year that I was born. I am thinking about that St. Louis heat, the heat under which Michael Brown Jr.'s body lay for more than 4½ hours on the hot asphalt in August of 2014.

I am wondering how many more 90-degree days we will have when I turn 50.

What about when I turn 55?

When I turn 60?

I am wondering how many more times Black bodies will lie dead in the summer heat on that asphalt from the environmental injustice of police murder. Yes, that is an environmental injustice.

I am thinking about how in the decade I was born the city of St. Louis pledged to prioritize elimination of lead pipes. But today Black children in the city of St. Louis are 2.4 times more likely than White children to test positive for lead in their blood. For my entire lifetime, we have been promised that this problem would be fixed. But today it still persists.

I am thinking about what the world will look like when my son and my daughter turn 45. I am thinking about the opportunity we have right now to deliver them a better world. I am thinking about how blessed I am to be in a position to do something about it.

Earlier this year, Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ and I introduced the Green New Deal for Cities Act to fund the environmental justice work of a Green New Deal in every community. Our bill would create good paying jobs in our communities to

solve the environmental racism that we face each and every day. It will clean up our polluted creeks and our vacant lots. Many don't know that when you drive in some communities, Madam Speaker, where it looks like the community doesn't care, sometimes it is not that the community doesn't care, sometimes it is because the ground is contaminated in our Black and in our Brown communities that those lots sit there vacant. Those lots sit there like they are unattended to, but there is more to the story, and financially that is the issue.

When we look at cleaning up our polluted creeks and our vacant lots—every move further we have to make sure that we replace fossil fuels with renewable energy.

Why are we still having that conversation?

I don't want my 46th birthday to come next year and our communities are still waiting for the people with the power of the pen and the people with the power of the purse to deliver the lifesaving changes that the people deserve. We need a Green New Deal.

For my birthday, please join me in fighting for one everywhere.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, it is amazing, whether we are talking about the Bronx, New York; St. Louis, Missouri; or New Mexico, it is obvious that a Green New Deal is needed now.

Madam Speaker, I would like to close by returning to one particular aspect of the Green New Deal for Public Schools because I think it highlights something about the framework as a whole. For me, one of the most exciting parts of the Green New Deal for Public Schools is how the learning environment in every school will be enriched, putting our young people at the center of the green energy revolution.

Students will delve into every aspect of the building retrofit process and immerse themselves in the broader sustainability and social challenges that we are tackling as a society. Each school will become a living lab for the Green New Deal. I cannot think of a better way to nurture the curiosity, ingenuity, and imaginations of our children. We will be kick-starting climate, STEM, and STEAM careers across the United States, and our country will reap the benefits of all that creativity.

The Green New Deal for Public Schools and the entire Green New Deal framework is built on the foundation of care and healing and allowing everyone in this country to unlock their full potential.

This is an idea that is expressed in Tupac Shakur's brilliant poem "The Rose That Grew from Concrete."

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?

Proving nature's law is wrong it learned to walk without having feet.

Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air.

Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SERIOUS ISSUES FACING OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration and Democrat House leadership want to cap off their first 6 months with an additional \$3.5 trillion in massive bills which will be the largest expansion of government ever.

Let's review the past 6 months. Prior to the Biden administration, on a bipartisan basis we here in this Congress allocated \$3.7 trillion for COVID relief and recovery on a bipartisan basis.

President Biden and the Democrats through a completely partisan spending bill spent \$1.9 trillion, three times more than many thought was necessary, and many Democrat economists also felt that way, especially since GDP growth was hitting record levels, clearly indicating American recovery.

□ 1615

Now we are experiencing inflation at really historic levels. Milk, bread, fruit, gasoline, among other items, have seen price increases, taxing all Americans. Unemployment remains very high in States that continue to extend and enhanced unemployment insurance. Meanwhile, virtually all employers have a shortfall in their workforce and are looking for employees.

Additionally, illegal immigration is at an all-time high. We see the mess at the border with no real corrections being made by the Biden administration or the Democrat-led House. Crime is hitting record levels in urban and suburban American. Oil imports from Russia are at an all-time high while we restrict energy production here at home, and China's economy is roaring.

We receive no cooperation from the CCP or the WHO, regarding investigations into the origins of COVID-19. Additionally, cyberattacks originating from China and Russia have presented a huge threat to American businesses large and small, yet, we have little to no response from the Biden administration or from our Democratic leadership here in the House.

Now the Democrats are putting a bipartisan transportation infrastructure bill in jeopardy that was agreed upon because they insist on spending \$3.5

trillion-plus for all kinds of government expansion initiatives, including expansions in Medicaid, ObamaCare, EPA, IRS, and I could go on.

This reckless expansion of government after \$5 trillion in spending will rock our economy, destroy career opportunities, create permanent dependency on government, and saddle our future American generations with debt well beyond what the eye can see or what the mind can contemplate.

Say "no" to reconciliation. Say "yes" to a bipartisan transportation infrastructure bill.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear friend for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON), my great friend.

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a serious issue facing my home State of Texas and millions of Americans, the Biden border crisis. Things at our southern border have gotten worse by the day since Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS have taken office.

For example, illegal immigration numbers were up 450 percent in June compared to June of last year. June was the fourth straight month with over 170,000 apprehensions. Border Patrol officials have seized more fentanyl so far in 2021 than all of 2020.

COVID cases among illegal immigrants are up 900 percent in the Rio Grande Valley. Numbers don't lie. The Biden administration's reckless approach to immigration has caused a full-blown crisis at the border, and there is absolutely nothing being done to stop it.

To be clear, the public health and drug crises that have been exacerbated by what is happening at the border are not just a problem for border States. The drugs being smuggled in at the border are coming to a neighborhood near you, courtesy of Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS.

Their hypocrisy on the public health threat, in particular, couldn't be more appalling. While pushing stringent COVID rules on the American people, the Biden administration is simultaneously pushing an open-border agenda that includes placing COVID-infected illegal immigrants all over this country. It is absolutely unbelievable.

Every American will ultimately be impacted in some way by this Biden border crisis. I plea with the President to reverse his failed immigration plan and start protecting the American people.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. JACKSON for his comments.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I will address tonight the many, many serious issues facing our country: the unprecedented crisis at our southern border; the highest inflation we have seen in 13 years; the Democrats' out-of-control spending and tax increases; the Democrats' undermining of the Hyde amendment; and the Democrats' defense of the Communist Cuba regime.

It is important we discuss these issues as Republicans, because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they just won't. We owe it to the American people to do better than this; to ensure there is still a country left when our children grow up.

The way the Democrats and the Biden administration are spending money, and our open borders, should not just concern Republicans, but every American. That is why I am proud of the way my colleagues and I will bring these issues straight to the American people in the people's House.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for their participation tonight. I know that we don't have anyone else here, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

DEMOCRATS' RECKLESS SPENDING AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, when you pull into a gas station or visit a grocery store this week, you will notice something different. Consumer prices are up across the board. Make no mistake, this financial strain is a direct result of the Biden administration's out-of-control spending. It is hurting millions of Americans across the Nation. In fact, nearly 9 in 10 Americans have reported a serious concern about the rise in prices. The reality is inflation, perhaps more accurately called Biden-flation, which is climbing at the highest rate in 13 years. Gas prices are up 45 percent; used car prices up 45 percent; and the cost of breakfast, lunch, and dinner has gone up for every single family.

These staples are necessities for every family in this country and their prices are rising because of the Democrats' reckless spending agenda. There is no doubt that the Democrats' non-stop Big Government spending is placing tremendous financial stress on the American family. What is worse, Democrats have failed to acknowledge that their outrageous spending has the most devastating impact on low-income Americans, many of whom have to spend beyond their means to afford the basic cost of goods and services.

Let me make this very clear. Inflation is a regressive tax that disproportionately affects the poor. Democrats are completely out of touch with the American people. To them, inflation is transitory; nothing to worry about. To the North Carolinians that I represent and speak with every day, inflation is now a real and present problem.

What is the Democrats' solution to soaring prices and high prices? Borrowing more money, another \$3.5 tril-

lion of taxpayer money to put toward new spending and tax hikes.

There is a life lesson here. If you are in a hole, stop digging.

Republicans understand that in most households, every dollar counts. But in Biden's economy, all Americans are having to pay more now to get less. We must reverse these disastrous policy decisions to save jobs, protect long-term investments, sustain economic progress, and most importantly, keep more money in taxpayers' pockets.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SUPPORTING CUBAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in absolute and unequivocal support of the Cuban people protesting their evil and oppressive Communist regime. Unfortunately, there is nothing new about their brutality and willful violations of universally recognized human rights. The United States should make it very clear that we stand on the side of the Cuban people as thousands have joined one of the biggest anti-Communist demonstrations the country has witnessed during its 62-year dictatorship.

Since the protests began, hundreds have been detained or are missing, including: artists, peace activists, and priests. The Cuban people deserve and need our help. In the words of the late Senator Jesse Helms:

The United States must speak out clearly on behalf of those whose own voices are choked by Communist repression.

Despite what many of our own people have been brainwashed by our education systems to believe, America is the greatest force for freedom and liberty that the world has ever known. I implore this administration, the Biden administration, and this Congress to utilize every tool of the U.S. Government to support the Cuban people in their effort to defeat the Communist regime and break the shackles of its oppressive government.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to address the Chamber on what I believe is the biggest crisis facing America today. I spent last week down at the McAllen section of the U.S.-Mexico border, and what I saw horrified me.

Late at night, from 10 to 11 o'clock, I watched people from all around the world walking on a pathway from the Rio Grande River to the Border Patrol station. We are right now at a point where I believe over 70,000 people a month are being allowed in the country. Many of these people have no ID at all, so there is no way to confirm who

they are, to even see if they have a criminal record.

□ 1630

Upon being processed through the border station, even without an ID, we buy them plane tickets for all around the country.

Scandalously, at a time when we are talking about COVID again, even if they test positive, people are held in apartments or hotels and not guarded, so they turn around and are being released. At a time in which we are supposed to be more careful than ever, we have a situation in which people who are coming here illegally are allowed in the country.

Furthermore, we watch as we have hit new records for the number of people who are killed in this country by illegal drug overdoses, including fentanyl. We are up to 90,000 people in the last year. I believe the reason we are hitting all-time records is because, as bad as heroin is, fentanyl is far worse. And all or virtually all of that fentanyl is coming across the southern border.

Meanwhile, we cede control of our immigration policy to Mexican drug gangs. These gangs charge, depending upon where you are coming from, \$3,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 to come across the border. They are so heartless that it is not uncommon that if Border Patrol approaches them on a boat from the Mexican side to the American side, whether it is with people or with drugs, they will throw a 3- or 4-year-old child into the Rio Grande River, knowing that our Border Patrol will fight to save that child rather than go after the people sneaking in the country or going after the drugs. This is the brutal type of people we are assisting by continuing the current policy or lack of a policy.

I strongly urge the Biden administration to step up to the plate to make sure that COVID-positive people are no longer let into the country; bring back the old policy, the migrant protection protocol, when we had only 6,000 people a month rather than 70,000 people a month crossing the border; require some sort of photo ID, like every other American would have before they get on an airline.

Good grief, who knows what type of criminal records these people have. Of course, we can only check criminal records in the United States. Nobody has any idea if these people have horrific criminal records in Honduras, El Salvador, Brazil, or all the other countries that people are coming here from.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage the Biden administration to step up.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the freedom fighters in Cuba and against communism, the very system of social, political, and economic oppression that

has brought misery, poverty, and death to the Cuban people.

As the struggle of the Cuban people continues, I am calling on President Biden and his administration to take decisive measures in support of the Cuban protesters.

Specifically, I am calling on him to: condemn the communist Cuban regime for their decades of oppression; condemn the communist Cuban regime for any acts of violence against peaceful protesters; condemn the evils of communism that have led to misery, poverty, and stifled basic and fundamental human rights; support the mission of the protesters in Cuba, which includes establishing free and democratic elections, releasing all political prisoners, and establishing a free and independent press; and commit to the United States continuing its policy of maximum pressure on the communist Cuban regime until fundamental democratic reforms take hold.

On a personal note, I immigrated to this country with my family when I was a young boy, just 6 years old. I lived through the indoctrination curriculum in elementary school. I witnessed my birth country crumble to the woes of communism. Luckily, my family and I had the opportunity to immigrate to this great country.

In just one generation, my family went from Cuba to Congress. I believe with all my heart and soul that in no other country in the world is that achievement possible.

I am heartened to see my fellow Cubans on the island wave the symbol of freedom, our American flag, as they demand the same freedoms that we take for granted.

For that reason, I will always stand firmly on the side of all who yearn for freedom and democracy.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns for the crisis we are seeing at the southern border and the obvious unwillingness of the Biden-Harris administration to provide solutions.

Illegal border crossings are at their highest level in two decades. Yet, this administration not only won't address it; they actually exacerbate it because they cut the CBP budget over \$900 million.

In June alone, border agents actually encountered over 188,000 people at our southern border. Madam Speaker, that is a 450 percent increase over last June.

Madam Speaker, the Biden administration created this invasion, this border crisis. This year alone, over 80,000 kids have crossed the border, with 15,000 remaining in government custody.

Fixing the crisis at the border requires an investment in manpower, infrastructure, technology, and strong policy. That is why I asked this body to plus-up \$300 million in next year's budget for Operation Stonegarden, to

reimburse border States like Texas that are actually stepping up at the State level to provide security for their constituents.

We must finish the wall, reinstate the remain in Mexico policy, and never bring back catch and release, which the Biden administration is rumored to be bringing back in the coming months.

A strong America begins and ends with a strong, safe, and secure border.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL).

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the horrible inflation crisis we are seeing in this country.

I can remember back to the terrible inflation period of the 1970s, and I always hoped we would never return back to those times. Unfortunately, what I see coming lately, it is looking very similar.

With the lifting of the pandemic restrictions and the increasing rate of vaccinations, many Americans are getting back to their normal routine. Many are dining out, traveling, and enjoying social events again.

While this is great news, virtually every American is noticing a massive increase in the price of nearly everything because of the unprecedented inflation caused by the Biden administration's reckless spending and willingness to pay people to sit at home instead of work.

Inflation has increased every single month since Biden has taken office. The Consumer Price Index has increased more than 5 percent over a year ago, which is the largest jump since just before the 2008 financial crisis.

Gas prices have increased 45 percent compared to last year; food prices have increased more than 2 percent; and consumer prices overall are up near 5 percent.

While these numbers may not concern President Biden, they are absolutely killing the working class. The Biden administration's failures have real consequences, and his policies are crushing the working- and middle-class families across Alabama and throughout our Nation.

The working class is the backbone of this Nation, so I urge President Biden and my colleagues across the aisle to get serious about addressing this crisis and get to work building the economy that benefits all Americans.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight because I am outraged by the Biden administration's lack of effort to protect our Nation from the invasion of illegal immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

I have visited our southern border twice now this year, and I can say,

without a shadow of a doubt, it is a full-blown catastrophe on every front: humanitarian, national security, and public health.

President Biden's irrational reversal of the Trump administration's border security policies, like canceling construction of the border wall, reversing the remain in Mexico policy, and sending mixed messages about America's southern border, is why we face this unmitigated disaster today.

There has been a surge of crossings, with more than 188,000 border crossings reported in June, a 450 percent increase from just a year ago.

On top of that, more than 7,500 new COVID cases were reported in detention centers from April through the beginning of July—a surge at the border, a surge of COVID.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents have seized 7,450 pounds of fentanyl so far this year, enough to kill every American several times over, and it is just getting worse.

States across the country are feeling the consequences of the border crisis, including my home State of Tennessee. Although our State is 1,000 miles from the southern border, Tennesseans will bear the brunt of this disaster in many ways, including in our school systems, healthcare systems, and police departments, as plane loads of illegal immigrants are offloaded in our communities.

We must reestablish law and order at the southern border by finishing the border wall, fully reinstating the remain in Mexico policy, robustly implementing title 42 authority, and sending a clear message that our borders are not open to illegal crossings.

When it comes to the border crisis, Americans, including Tennesseans, are looking for leadership, not denials, deflections, and distractions from our sleepy leaders in the White House.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, Americans are seeing the impacts of inflation every day, with rising costs everywhere from the gas pump to the grocery store. California workers and families are bearing the brunt of this nationwide, 13-year inflation high.

Prices of everyday goods in my State are, in many cases, higher than the national average. For example, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline in California's 39th District is more than \$1 higher than the national average.

Additionally, these higher costs come in addition to high State and local taxes, cost of living, and astronomical housing costs. June statistics showed the median housing price in my district rose more than 20 percent, with the median price of a single-family home being more than \$800,000.

That is why I am disappointed that instead of working with Republicans to address inflation, get Americans back

to work, and support small businesses, Democrats are moving forward with trillions more in Federal spending on a partisan wish list that will cause increased Federal debt, an even higher cost of living, and more money out of the pockets of hardworking taxpayers.

We should be making life more affordable, not less.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I want to talk about the border. I live in a border State. I have been to the border a number of times. But last week, I got to go to the border again in Nogales, Arizona. I can attest firsthand that there is a crisis at our border.

I talked to Customs and Border Patrol agents and other officials, and they all have said that this is the worst that they have seen it in their entire career, and some of them have worked for 30 years for Customs and Border Protection.

I went down in a tunnel with the CBP officers, and it smelled. There was trash everywhere. And these Customs and Border Protection officers have to monitor the tunnels for human trafficking, sex trafficking, and drug trafficking.

□ 1645

At one of the ports of entry in Nogales, the Mariposa port of entry, they have seized, in the first 12 days of July, 500,000 fentanyl pills. Do you know how many people that can kill?

I call on the Biden administration to do something about the border crisis. The policies that he has set forth are causing this problem.

I visited parts of the border fence where there are just big openings, but the material is laying there right on the ground. We have already paid for it. This is insanity. It is total insanity.

I also heard that the Biden administration wants to repeal title 42, which is the one thing that is causing it from being more of a disaster.

Madam Speaker, I ask Mr. Biden, KAMALA HARRIS, Democrats, please help us secure the border.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, our Nation should be in the midst of a booming economic recovery.

Unfortunately, what we see is the exact opposite.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have consistently warned against wasteful government spending, and the real harm that it would cause not only to our economy, but to the everyday lives of Americans.

And this was even before President Biden began pushing through this reckless government spending agenda that will raise taxes on American families, destroy jobs, and saddle future generations with a massive debt.

It has also created another crisis: inflation—something House Republicans

warned would occur as a result of the President's massive increase in government spending and mismanagement of the economy. Inflation is a tax on all Americans, and it has increased every month since President Biden took office.

The Consumer Price Index increased 5.4 percent from a year ago. This is the largest jump since just before the 2008 financial crisis.

Business owners are worried. Nearly half of America's small businesses have no choice but to raise their prices because the cost to do business is skyrocketing. And that means consumers end up paying more.

The Biden administration has attempted to downplay the harmful effects of inflation, claiming it will resolve itself in the next few months, but top economists project that inflation is here to stay.

Worse yet, now our Democratic colleagues are attempting to push through a partisan \$3.5 trillion package that is nothing more than a reckless tax-and-spending spree, which will indeed stick more families with higher taxes and lower wages.

Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it, these are not just numbers. Americans across the country are spending more money on everyday goods and services.

Now more than ever it is critical that we are supporting our workers and families and making sure they succeed. We should be focused on supporting policies that create more jobs, spur growth and innovation, and put more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans.

The President's and our Democratic colleagues' plans are doing the opposite.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in October of 2019, California passed legislation requiring public universities to provide chemical abortion pills to female students starting in 2023.

Chemical abortions have increased. Actually, it has skyrocketed in the past 20 years from just 5 percent in 2001 to 39 percent of all abortions in 2017.

We want women across the country to know that we are there for them as a pro-life movement, and there are so many other safe options other than choosing abortion.

Congress must act now, not just to protect innocent babies from abortion, but to protect the vulnerable women from the lies of the abortion industry and the potential horrible physical, emotional, and spiritual damage of having a chemical abortion.

This is why I have joined Congressman CHIP ROY and Senator STEVE DAINES in introducing the Protecting Life on College Campus Act.

The Protecting Life on College Campus Act would uphold the Hyde amendment and prohibit Federal funds to go

to universities that provide chemical abortion pills to students.

This would be another step in the right direction to save the lives of the unborn and protect the safety of women and our families.

The fight for life in the United States has never been more important than today. For the first time in 40 years, the Hyde amendment was excluded from the spending bill introduced in Congress.

Further, it was even cleared by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health and Human Services.

The rest of my Republican colleagues and I are ready to fight and demand that Hyde be reinstated into this year's bill.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my support for the Cuban people.

After decades of enduring an oppressive Communist regime, the people of Cuba deserve freedom.

Last week, we watched as Cubans proudly waved the American flag through the streets and peacefully advocated for the freedom our flag represents.

Unfortunately, as Cubans marched, many of my colleagues across the aisle have remained silent or, worse, they have wrongfully blamed the United States or even suggested these protests were in response to COVID-19.

Let me be clear: The embargo isn't responsible for young children who have been forced into joining the police force. The embargo isn't responsible for cutting off internet access. It is the failed Communist system, a system so full of corruption and greed that medicine, food, and gas shortages are sadly the norm.

Crowds chanting "Freedom" and "Down with the dictatorship" are clear cries for relief from six decades of suffering.

History has shown us that communism has always failed, leaving those who must live under its restrictive rule to suffer.

I have witnessed these atrocities and failure of communism firsthand, and I have dedicated my life to fighting against it.

I am proud to stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba as they fight to end the Communist rule that has ruined their nation. I hope my colleagues will consider doing the same.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a free Cuba. As the Cuban people cry out to the free world for democracy, communism works relentlessly to silence their voices through violence and censorship.

Among my best friends growing up in Arkansas were the wonderful Villalon family, who fled Cuba and escaped the tyranny of Castro. I was best friends with the kids in elementary school. The father of the family was a leader in our church and our Boy Scout troop, and the mother was my Spanish teacher.

The Villalon family had the opportunity to grow up in a free country, one that provided jobs, opportunities, and freedoms that every human should have access to. Unfortunately for my friends in Arkansas, it took them fleeing their homeland and escaping the grips of communism to get a taste of the freedoms that we Americans enjoy each and every day.

During my career I have seen firsthand the systematic destruction of commerce, community, and human spirit by communism.

So, Madam Speaker, I stand with the Cuban people, and I call on our Nation's leaders to do what we can to support a new and free Cuba.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, Americans everywhere are feeling the real effects of inflation due to the Democrats' reckless spending spree.

Basic and time-tested economics show that more money in the marketplace leads to inflation, especially when it is created by new debt.

Families across the country are paying \$10, \$20, \$30 more on groceries each week. Gas prices are up nearly 50 percent.

Remember the ads for the \$6 burger that used to be \$3.99? You used to see it on TV. Well, they are actually going to be \$6 pretty soon the way things are going.

Democrats claim that they are working for the American people. Their policies are, in fact, hitting middle-class families hard. The American people are noticing.

It is no coincidence that inflation has increased every month during the Biden administration. They need to understand that all the money they keep spending directly and negatively impacts real Americans.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the troubling impact that inflation is having on the American people.

Raising a family during good economic times is hard enough, but times of high inflation make it even more difficult. With prices rising at paces not seen since 1991, families are being forced to make tough decisions and stretch their paychecks even further.

During his Presidential campaign, Joe Biden promised not to raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000 per year. However, his spending habit is fueling inflation, which is a tax on every American. In fact, it is worse

than an ordinary tax because it is regressive, hitting the working class the hardest.

President Biden and Democrats would have the American people believe that debt doesn't matter, and that the government can spend an endless amount of money on whatever they like. However, that could not be further from the truth.

To stop the cost of things from accelerating even higher, we must end our spending addiction and get the national debt under control.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield the remainder to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand for the people of Cuba who are marching against the Communist government that has oppressed them for decades.

In recent weeks, the Cuban activists have been kidnapped, jailed, and murdered for daring to stand against the Communist regime.

Now is the time to stand against this brutality. We must urge world leaders to cease all support for the Communist regime in Cuba.

We must ensure that Cubans can communicate freely with each other and with the outside world. We must forcefully denounce the Cuban dictatorship that has committed these crimes.

The Cuban people are rising up in the name of opportunity, the opportunity that they see just 90 miles away on the American shores.

As the Cuban people protest in the streets, they are chanting, "Libertad," liberty. They are carrying American flags, and they are calling out for freedom.

Now is the time for us to stand with them. It is time to put an end to the murderous regime that has held the people of Cuba hostage for the past 61 years.

Freedom. Freedom for all. Freedom for Cuba. Let them see what we have here. Let them attain that freedom.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Gloria J. Lett, Deputy Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1652. An act to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 30, 2021, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2441. To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1651. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Data Collection and Inventory for Services Contracts (DFARS Case 2018-D063) [Docket: DARS-2020-0007] (RIN-0750-AK30) received July 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1652. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — TRICARE: Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Respite Care [Docket ID: DOD-2016-HA-0112] (RIN: 0720-AB69) received July 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1653. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [Docket ID: DoD-2021-OS-0030] (RIN: 0790-AL16) received July 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1654. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting proposed legislation to amend Section 1433 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 3001-2) to require drinking-water systems to take actions to improve their cybersecurity; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1655. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting an action on a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1656. A letter from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), transmitting the Corporation's General and Legislative Annual

Report and Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Request to Congress, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 24320(a)(1); Public Law 114-94, Sec. 11203(a)(1); (129 Stat. 1630); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1657. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0184; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01599-T; Amendment 39-21605; AD 2021-12-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1658. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held By Rolls-Royce Deutschland GmbH, Formerly BMW Rolls-Royce GmbH) Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1174; Project Identifier MCAI-2019-00135-E; Amendment 39-21594; AD 2021-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1659. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) and Eurocopter France Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2006-24733; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00139-R; Amendment 39-21642; AD 2021-14-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1660. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0540; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00694-T; Amendment 39-21635; AD 2021-14-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1661. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Report to Congress on Integrated Plans to Comply with the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2019; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1662. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Report to Congress on Implementing IWG Recommendations on Improving the Consultation Process Required Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for Pesticide Registration and Registration Review; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York: Committee on Oversight and Reform. Supplemental report on H.R. 3076. A bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-89, Pt. 2).

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. CHU, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SIREN, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 4589. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish in the Department of State a Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to promote increased diversity and inclusion in the Foreign Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 4590. A bill to require the Federal banking regulators to jointly conduct a study and develop a strategic plan to address challenges faced by proposed depository institutions seeking de novo depository institution charters; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MRVAN (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BOST, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. BROWN):

H.R. 4591. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. LAWSON of Florida):

H.R. 4592. A bill to require the President to report on financial institutions' involvement with officials of the Iranian Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CARL, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. GIBBS):

H.R. 4593. A bill to establish a block grant program to enable southwest border States to construct barriers along their borders with Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4594. A bill to make available \$250,000,000 from the Travel Promotion Fund for the Corporation for Travel Promotion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BOURDEAUX (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MANNING, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KIND, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. SE-

WELL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. ALLRED):

H.R. 4595. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to provide health care coverage to low-income adults in States that have not expanded Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4596. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to establish record-management plans in order to be accredited or continue to be accredited, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 4597. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make certain projects and activities eligible for financial assistance under a State water pollution control revolving fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GARCIA of Illinois (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 4598. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require all-cargo aircraft to be equipped with cockpit doors that meet certain safety requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio (for himself and Mr. LAMB):

H.R. 4599. A bill to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American manufacturing through the research and development of advanced technologies to reduce steelmaking emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 4600. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize institutions of higher education to limit the amount of a Federal loan that an enrolled student may borrow; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Ms. STEFANK):

H.R. 4601. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself and Mrs. MCCLAIN):

H.R. 4602. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 4603. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center or contract call center work overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in

addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Armed Services, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4604. A bill to allow certain individuals with prior service under the District of Columbia retirement system to make deposits towards annuities under the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 4605. A bill to amend the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 to improve mapping under the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mr. MEIJER):

H.R. 4606. A bill to establish programs and authorities to facilitate the commercial application of clean energy and related technologies in the United States; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. HERN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MANN, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROSE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GUEST, and Mrs. MCCLAIN):

H.R. 4607. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 4608. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for designation of qualified opportunity zones every 10 years; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 4609. A bill to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. MEIJER):

H.R. 4610. A bill to establish an expansion awards pilot program as a part of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 4611. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue guidance with

respect to certain information and communications technology or services contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 4612. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 4613. A bill to require cut flowers and cut greens displayed in certain Federal buildings to be produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. TRONE):

H. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that governmental entities should use a portion of the proceeds from litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors to increase participation in drug take back programs and for the safe disposal of collected, unused medicines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Res. 544. A resolution acknowledging and apologizing for the mistreatment of, and discrimination against, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals who served the United States in the Armed Forces, the Foreign Service, and the Federal civil service; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H. Res. 545. A resolution supporting the ideals of Bump Day, a global advocacy day for maternal health, and reaffirming United States leadership to end preventable maternal deaths in the United States and globally; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. DELAULO, and Ms. MATSUI):

H. Res. 546. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Women's National Soccer Team and the United States Men's National Soccer Team should receive equal pay for equal work; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. MANNING (for herself, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. WILD, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. DEAN, Mr. MEIJER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr.

CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. SOTO, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. KILMER):

H. Res. 547. A resolution calling for the continued support of Afghan women and girls after the drawdown of American troops; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. NUNES, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BUCK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. HERN, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. POSEY, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON, Mr. MAST, Mr. JACKSON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FALLON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BACON, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. ESTES, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MANN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KELLER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BABIN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. DUNN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BOST, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COLE, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. MACE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GARBARINO, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MEIJER, Mr.

CARL, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. HILL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROSE, Mr. COMER, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. ROY, Mr. BARR, Ms. FOXX, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. EMMER, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BANKS, and Mrs. FISCHBACH):

H. Res. 548. A resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 549. A resolution condemning the assassination of the Haitian President, and urging United States and global support of Haitian-led solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-57. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution 238, Urging the President of the United States and the Environmental Protection Agency to appropriate action, through waivers and other reforms, to allow blending of renewable fuels under the federal "Clean Air Act"; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4589.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 4590.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. MRVAN:

H.R. 4591.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 4592.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 4593.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. BOURDEAUX:

H.R. 4595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which reads as follows: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 4597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois:

H.R. 4598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio:

H.R. 4599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 4600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 4601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 4602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

Section—Powers of Congress. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I and clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 4605.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 4606.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 4607.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. STEEL:

H.R. 4608.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 4609.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 4610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 4611.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 4612.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 8.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 4613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3; Clause 2

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 40: Mr. DOGETT.

H.R. 72: Mr. POSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 82: Mr. O'HALLERAN and Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 203: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 224: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 310: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 366: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 432: Ms. JACOBS of California.

H.R. 481: Mr. RESCHENTHALER and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 550: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 590: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 616: Mr. KAHELE.

H.R. 695: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MAST, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 729: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 756: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 815: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 816: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 925: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 963: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1057: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 1115: Mr. WALBERG.

- H.R. 1179: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1181: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1182: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1196: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1219: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 1289: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 1297: Ms. McCOLLUM.
H.R. 1304: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 1331: Mr. CORREA and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1332: Mr. OWENS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1346: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1348: Mr. LIEU and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1368: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1385: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1400: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1436: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 1456: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1474: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1479: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1569: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WILD, and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 1607: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 1664: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1745: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1803: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 1842: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 1863: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1925: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 1978: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2071: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2120: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 2126: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2193: Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2209: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 2214: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2219: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 2235: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2278: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 2286: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 2289: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 2337: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2373: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 2377: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. JONES, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2415: Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. DEAN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 2424: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 2499: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 2519: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2522: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2538: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2729: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2734: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 2748: Mr. NEAL, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. GRIF-FITH.
H.R. 2759: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2767: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2785: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 2811: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2820: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CASE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2827: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 2828: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 2839: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2885: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2901: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2903: Mr. BOST, Mrs. AXNE, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2972: Mr. POCAN and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3031: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 3048: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3072: Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 3075: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3078: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 3079: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 3086: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 3101: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3115: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 3116: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3173: Mr. KIND, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3187: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 3193: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 3194: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 3203: Ms. ROSS, Mr. JACOBS of New York, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3216: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 3251: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3252: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3281: Ms. CHENEY.
H.R. 3312: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3335: Mr. SOTO, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3369: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H.R. 3372: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3402: Mr. CARSON and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3404: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 3440: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 3441: Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LAMB, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3452: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 3459: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 3496: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 3512: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3513: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 3519: Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. LURIA, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 3541: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 3627: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 3648: Mr. TRONE and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 3672: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3733: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 3744: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3753: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3759: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BLU-MENAUER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 3769: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 3807: Mr. SARBANES and Mrs. TORRES of California.
H.R. 3811: Mr. ROSE and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 3820: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 3860: Mr. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 3906: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 3907: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3908: Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 3940: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 3959: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 3985: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3988: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3992: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 3999: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 4010: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 4011: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4058: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 4060: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4073: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 4082: Mr. OWENS and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 4094: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 4104: Mr. CRIST, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4105: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 4108: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4116: Mr. BROWN and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4131: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MENG, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 4140: Mr. DELGADO and Mrs. CAMMACK.
H.R. 4150: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4163: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 4164: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 4181: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 4191: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 4230: Ms. CHENEY.
H.R. 4290: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 4310: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 4328: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 4331: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 4375: Mr. CARSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 4406: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4444: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 4472: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4487: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 4541: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. ROSENDALE, and Mrs. BOEBERT.
H.R. 4542: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4568: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.J. Res. 11: Mrs. GREENE of Georgia.
H. Con. Res. 7: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. KAHELE.
H. Res. 14: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H. Res. 47: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 336: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Ms. TLAI.
H. Res. 530: Mr. CALVERT.
H. Res. 536: Mr. SIRES and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H. Res. 541: Ms. PRESSLEY and Ms. ESCOBAR.